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Errata.

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|--|---|
| Page 54, line 4, | for <i>Welgen</i> , read <i>Helgen</i> . |
| " 54, " 15, | " <i>Nurnberg</i> , read <i>Nürnberg</i> . |
| " 54, " 15, | " <i>Hypnerotomachia</i> , read <i>Hypnerotomachia</i> . |
| " 110, " 12 from foot | " <i>of Feilird</i> , read <i>Feilire of</i> . |
| " 114, " 15 " " " | " <i>gesellschaft</i> , read <i>Gesellschaft</i> . |
| " 116, " 8 " " " | " <i>pubblicarli</i> , read <i>pubblicati</i> . |
| " 160, " 7, | " <i>1648</i> , read <i>1468</i> . |
| " 166, (note at foot) | " <i>Aug.</i> , 1889, read <i>Aug.</i> , 1888. |
| " 184, " 3 from foot | " <i>May 9th</i> , read <i>May 13th</i> . |
| " 377, in list of new members, | for <i>Caddic</i> , read <i>Caddie</i> . |
| " 388, " 19 from foot for | <i>G. L. Campbell (Wigan)</i> , read <i>F. B. Campbell (British Museum)</i> . |
| " 141, the plan of the Battersea Public Library is reversed. | The first floor should be the ground floor, and <i>vice versa</i> . |



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The Library.

A Forgotten Book of Travels.

WHEN, in 1768, the yet-undistinguished James Boswell of Auchinleck gave to the world his "Journal of a Tour to Corsica," Gray wrote to Horace Walpole from Pembroke College that the book had strangely moved and pleased him. Then, with the curious contempt for the author which that fantastic personage seems to have inspired in so many of his contemporaries, Gray goes on:—"The pamphlet proves what I have always maintained, that any fool may write a most valuable book by chance, if he will only tell us what he heard and saw with veracity." This is an utterance which suggests that even that excellent critic Mr. Gray, sometimes, like the Sage of Bolt Court, "talked laxly." At all events this special book scarcely illustrates his position. There was more than mere veracity in Boswell's method. Conscious or unconscious, his faculty for reproducing his impressions effectively, and his thoroughly individual treatment of his material are far more nearly akin to genius than folly. Nor could his success be said to be a matter of chance, since on two subsequent occasions—in the "Tour to the Hebrides" and the "Life of Johnson"—he not only repeated that success, but carried further towards perfection those fortunate characteristics which he had shown at first. Walpole, if we may trust the title-page of the "little lounging miscellany" known as *Walpoliana*, reported his friend's dictum with greater moderation. "Mr. Gray the poet has often observed to me that, if any person were to form a book of what he had seen and heard himself, it must, in whatever hands, prove a most useful and entertaining one." As a generalization, this leaves nothing to object to. That the unaffected record of ordinary experiences, "honestly set down," is seldom without its charm, needs no demonstration, and when lapse of time has added its graces of remoteness the charm is heightened. These considerations must serve as our excuse for recalling a forgotten "pamphlet"—as Gray would have styled it—which points the moral of his corrected aphorism better than Boswell's "Tour."

When Charles P. Moritz's "Travels, chiefly on Foot, through several Parts of England," originally appeared in German, we know not.¹ But the narrative itself belongs to 1782, and the first English version is dated 1795. The second edition (now before us) came two years later, and other issues are occasionally met with in booksellers' catalogues; besides which, John Pinkerton, the compiler of the *Walpoliana* above mentioned, included the book in the second volume of his "Collection of Voyages, &c."² The English translator was a young lady, said to be the daughter of an unidentified personage referred to by the author; the editor, who, in a copious preface, testifies, among other things, to the favourable reception of the work in Berlin and Germany generally, remains anonymous. Moritz himself, the writer, was a young Prussian clergyman, enthusiastic about England and things English, who came among us "to draw Miltonic air" (in Gay's phrase), and to read his beloved *Paradise Lost* in the very land of its conception. He stayed exactly seven weeks in this country, three of which he spent in London, the rest being occupied by visits to Oxford, Birmingham, the Peak, and elsewhere. What he sees, and what he admires (and fortunately for us he admires a great deal), he describes in letters to one Frederic Gedike, a friend at Berlin.

His first communication depicts his progress up the Thames, which he regards as greatly surpassing even "the charming banks of the *Elbe*." Then he disembarks near Dartford, whence, with two companions, he posts to London, behind a round-hatted postillion "with a nosegay in his bosom." He is delighted with the first view he gets of an English soldier, "in his red uniform, his hair cut short and combed back on his forehead so as to afford a full view of his fine broad manly face." He is interested also to see two boys engaged in the national sport of boxing; and he marvels at the huge gateway-like sign-posts of the village inns. Passing over Westminster Bridge, he does not, like Wordsworth, burst into a sonnet, but he is impressed (as who would not be!) by that unequalled *coup d'œil*. "The prospect from this bridge alone (he says) seems to afford one the epitome of a journey, or a voyage in miniature, as containing something of everything that most usually occurs on a journey." Presently, a little awed by the prodigious greatness and gloom of the houses (which remind him of Leipzig), he finds lodgings in George Street, Strand, with a tailor's widow, not very far,

¹ The first edition was published at Berlin in 1783.—ED.

² It was also reprinted in Mavor's *British Tourist*, Vol. 4, 1809.—ED.

as he is pleased to discover, from that Adelphi Terrace where once "lived the renowned *Garrick*." To his simple tastes his apartments, with their leather-covered chairs, matted floors and mahogany tables, have an air of splendour. "I may do just as I please (he says), and keep my own tea, coffee, bread and butter, for which purpose (and here comes a charming touch of guilelessness!) my landlady has given me a cupboard in my room, which locks up." With one of his landlady's sons for guide, he makes the tour of St. James's Park (where you may buy milk warm from the cow), and he experiences for the first time "the exquisite pleasure of mixing freely with a concourse of people who are for the most part well dressed and handsome." His optimism finds a further gratification in the "sweet security" (the expression is not his, but Lamb's) which is afforded by the footways on either side of the streets "from the prodigious crowd of carts and coaches," and he explains to his "dearest Gedike" the mysteries of giving the wall. He finds London better lighted than Berlin (which implies little short of Cimmerian darkness in that centre of civilisation!), and he waxes sorrowful over the general evidence of dram drinking and the sale of spirituous liquors. "In the late riots (*i.e.* the Gordon Riots of 1780), which even yet are hardly quite subsided, and which are still the general topic of conversation, more people have been found dead near empty brandy-casks in the streets than were killed by the musket balls of regiments that were called in." Another thing which strikes him as foreign to his experience is the insensibility of the crowd to funerals. "The people seem to pay as little attention to such a procession as if a hay cart were driving past." Among novelties that more pleasurably affect him, are the English custom of sleeping without a feather bed, and the institution of "buttered toast," which, incredible as it may sound, appears to have been still an unknown luxury in the land of Werther.

On the second Sunday after his arrival he preaches at the German Church on Ludgate Hill for the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Wendeborn, who resides "in a philosophical but not unimproving retirement" at chambers in New Inn,—and he visits the Prussian Ambassador, Count Lucy, with whom, over "a dish of coffee" he has a learned argument upon the pending dispute "about the *tacismus* or *stacismus*." Then he pays a visit to Vauxhall Gardens, making "*le trajet du fleuve fatal*" in a wherry from Westminster Bridge. Comparing great things with small, he traces certain superficial resemblances between the Surrey Paradise and the similar resort at Berlin—a resemblance which is enforced by his speedy discovery of that chiefest glory of

the English gardens, Roubiliac's Statue of Handel. The "white and bloom-coloured" orchestra, and the painted scenes at the end of the walks come in for a share of his admiration, as do also those famous water-works, from the fugitive and "fearful joy" of which the unfortunate pawnbroker's widow in the *Citizen of the World* was debarred by the inopportune vocalization of Mrs. Tibbs. These, as is not always remembered, were nothing more than a "moving or mechanical picture" on a large scale which worked only for a few minutes. "In a particular part of the garden, a curtain was drawn up, and by means of some mechanism, of extraordinary ingenuity, the eye and the ear are so completely deceived, that it is not easy to persuade oneself it is a deception; and that one does not actually see and hear a natural water-fall from a high rock." In the Rotunda, which was used for wet days, he is particularly impressed by the paintings, and especially by one which it is not difficult to recognise from his description as Frank Hayman's "Surrender of Montreal to Amherst." "If you look at this painting with attention for any length of time," says this kindly young spectator, "it affects you so much, that you even shed tears." . . . "You also here [in the Rotunda] find the busts of the best English authors, placed all round on the sides. Thus a Briton again meets with his Shakespeare, Locke, Milton and Dryden in the public places of his amusements, and there also reveres their memory." He finds further confirmation of this honoured position of letters in the popularity (which he infers from the cheap editions) of the native classics as compared with those of Germany, where "since Gellert [of the Fables], there has as yet been no poet's name familiar to the people." But in England even his landlady studies her *Paradise Lost*, and indeed won the affections of her husband (now deceased) "because she read Milton with such proper emphasis."

After Vauxhall follows, as a matter of course, a visit to the equally popular and more fashionable Ranelagh. Like most people, the traveller had expected it to resemble its rival, and until he actually entered the Great Room, was grievously disappointed. "But," he continued, "it is impossible to describe, or indeed to conceive, the effect it had on me, when, coming out of the gloom of the garden, I suddenly entered a round building, illuminated by many hundred lamps, the splendour and beauty of which surpassed everything of the kind I had ever seen before. Everything seemed here to be round; above, there was a gallery divided into boxes, and in one part of it an organ with a beautiful choir, from which issued both vocal and instrumental music. All around, under this gallery, are handsome

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painted boxes for those who wish to take refreshments. The floor was covered with mats, in the middle of which are four high black pillars, within which are neat fire-places for preparing tea, coffee and punch, and all around also there are placed tables, set out with all kinds of refreshments. Within [he means 'without'] these four pillars, in a kind of magic rotundo, all the *beau-monde* of London move perpetually round and round." This, as may be seen by a glance at Parr's print of 1751 after Canaletti, or the better-known plate in Stowe's *Survey*, is an exceedingly faithful description of the Ranelagh of Walpole and Chesterfield. After a modest *consommation*, which, to his astonishment, he finds is covered by the half-crown he paid at the door, he mounts to the upper regions. "I now went up into the gallery, and seated myself in one of the boxes there, and from thence, becoming all at once a grave and moralizing spectator, I looked down on the concourse of people who were still moving round and round in the fairy circle, and then I could easily distinguish several stars, and other orders of knighthood; French queues and bags contrasted with plain English heads of hair, or professional wigs; old age and youth, nobility and commonalty, all passing each other in the motley swarm. An Englishman, who joined me during this my reverie, pointed out to me, on my enquiry, princes and lords with their dazzling stars with which they eclipsed the less brilliant part of the company."

His next experiences are of the House of Commons. Here he had like to have been disappointed from his unhappy ignorance of an enlightened native formula. Having made his way to Westminster Hall, a "genteel man in black" informed him he must be introduced by a member, an announcement which caused him to retire "much chagrined." Something unintelligible was mumbled behind him about a bottle of wine, but it fell on alien ears. As soon as he returned home his intelligent landlady solved the difficulty, sending him back next day with the needful *douceur*, upon which the "genteel man," with much venal urbanity, handed him into a select seat in the Strangers' Gallery. The building itself strikes him as rather mean, and not a little resembling a chapel. But the Speaker and the mace, the members going and coming, some "cracking nuts and eating oranges, others in their greatcoats and with boots and spurs," the cries of "hear," and "order," and "question," speedily absorb him. On his first visit he is fortunate. The debate turns on the reward to Admiral Rodney for his victory over De Grasse at Guadaloupe, and he hears Fox, Burke, and Rigby speak. "Fox," he says, "is a short, fat, and gross man, with a

swarthy complexion and dark, and in general he is badly dressed. There certainly is something Jewish in his looks. But, upon the whole, he is not an ill-made nor an ill-looking man, and there are many strong marks of sagacity and fire in his eyes. . . . Burke is a well-made, tall, upright man, but looks elderly and broken. Rigby is excessively corpulent, and has a jolly rubicund face."

Pastor Moritz repeated his visits to the Parliament House, frankly confessing that he preferred this entertainment to any other, and, indeed, it was a shilling cheaper than the pit of a theatre. When, after his tour in the country, he came back to London, he seems at once to have gravitated to Westminster, for he gives an account, as if he had been present, of the discussion on the Barré pension which followed the death of Lord Rockingham in July. He heard Fox, with great eloquence, vindicate his resignation; he heard Walpole's friend, General Conway; he heard Burke, in a passion, insisting upon the respect of the house; he heard the youthful Pitt, then scarcely looking more than one-and-twenty, rivet universal attention. A little earlier he had been privileged to witness that most English of sights, the Westminster election in Covent Garden, with its boisterous *finale*. "When the whole was over, the rampant spirit of liberty, and the wild impatience of a genuine English mob, was exhibited in perfection. In a very few minutes the whole scaffolding, benches and chairs, and everything else was completely destroyed, and the mat with which it had been covered torn into ten thousand long strips or pieces, or strings, with which they encircled or enclosed multitudes of people of all kinds. These they hurried along with them, and everything else that came in their way, as trophies of joy: and thus, in the midst of exultation and triumph, they paraded through many of the most populous streets of London."

To the British Museum he paid a flying visit of little more than an hour, with a miscellaneous and "personally conducted" party—a visit scarcely favourable to minute impressions. But of the Haymarket Theatre, to which he went twice (Covent Garden and Drury Lane being closed as usual for the summer months), he gives a fairly detailed account. Foote's *Nabob* was the play on the first night; that on the second the *English Merchant*, adapted by Colman from Voltaire. With this latter he was already familiar in its German dress, having seen it at Hamburg. On both occasions the performance wound up with O'Keefe's once-famous ballad farce of *The Agreeable Surprise*. John Edwin, an excellent burletta singer, took the part of "Lingo" the schoolmaster, to the entire satisfaction of Moritz, who thought him, with his *Amo, amas, I love a lass, &c.*,

and his musical voice, "one of the best actors of all that he had seen," notwithstanding that Jack Palmer (Lamb and Goldsmith's Palmer!) acted the Nabob. But if he was pleased with the acting, he was not equally impressed by the audience. The ceaseless clamour of the upper gallery and the steady hail of missiles were anything but agreeable. "Often and often whilst I sat here [*i. e.* in the pit] did a rotten orange, or pieces of the peel of an orange, fly past me, or past some of my neighbours, and once one of them actually hit my hat, without my daring to look round, for fear another might then hit me on my face."

Over the accounts of St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey we must pass silently, in order to accompany the tourist on his road to Derbyshire, to the "natural curiosities" of which, after some hesitation, he felt himself most attracted. Equipped with a road-book, he set out from the White Hart (in Covent Garden?) for Richmond, intending thence to pursue his journey on foot. By his own account, he must have travelled in just such another stage coach as that depicted in Hogarth's "Country Inn Yard," and have shared the curiosity (afterwards amply gratified in his own case) so often felt by admirers of that veracious picture, as to the method by which passengers managed to "fasten themselves securely on the roof." Luckily the coach met neither highwayman nor footpad. At Richmond he alighted, and is properly enthusiastic, almost dithyrambic, over "one of the first situations in the world." He even got up to see the sun rise from Richmond Hill, with the usual fate of such premature adventurers, a clouded sky. Then he set out on foot by Windsor to Oxford. But he speedily discovered that in a horse-riding age a pedestrian was a person of very inferior respectability, and though—modelling himself upon the Vicar of Wakefield—he was careful to invite the landlords to drink with him, he found himself generally treated with pity or contempt, which, when he sat down under a hedge to read Milton, almost changed into a doubt of his sanity. At most of the inns they declined to give him house room, though, finally, he was allowed to enter "one of those kitchens which I had so often read of in Fielding's fine novels," where (just as in those novels), presently arrives a showy post-chaise to set the servile establishment in a bustle, although the occupants called for nothing but two pots of beer. After a vain attempt to obtain a night's lodging at Nuneham, he picks up a travelling companion in the shape of a young clergyman, who had been preaching at Dorchester and was returning to Oxford. His new ally takes him to the time-honoured

Mitre, where he finds "a great number of clergymen, all with their gowns and bands on, sitting round a large table, each with his pot of beer before him." A not very worshipful theological discussion ensues, which is too long to quote, and poor Parson Moritz is so well received that he has a dreadful headache next morning. It is impossible to follow his fortunes farther. From Oxford he goes to Stratford-on-Avon, then to Lichfield and Derby, and so to his destination, "the great Cavern near Castleton, in the high Peake of Derbyshire," which he describes at length. He returns by Nottingham and Leicester, whence, still enthusiastic, but a little weary of his pedestrian humiliations, he takes coach to Northampton, mounting to the top, in company with a farmer, a young man and "a blackamoor." This eminence proving as perilous as it looked, he creeps into the basket, in spite of the warnings of the black. "As long as we went up hill it was easy and pleasant. And, having had little or no sleep the night before, I was almost asleep among the trunks and the packages; but how was the case altered when we came to go down hill; then all the trunks and parcels began, as it were, to dance around me, and everything in the basket seemed to be alive; and I every moment received from them such violent blows, that I thought my last hour was come . . . I was obliged to suffer this torture nearly an hour, till we came to another hill again, when, quite shaken to pieces and sadly bruised, I again crept to the top of the coach, and took possession of my former seat." No wonder he concludes this part of his experiences with a solemn warning to travellers to take inside places in English post coaches. With his return to London his narrative practically ends. But the rapid sketch here given of it affords no hint of the abundance of *naïf* detail, of simple enthusiasm and kindly wonderment, which characterize its pages. Whether the writer repeated this literary effort in other ways when he returned to his own country, it is needless to enquire. It is pleasantest to suppose him ending tranquil days as a kind of German Dr. Primrose, telling grandchildren, such as Chodowiecki drew, how he once saw Goldsmith's monument in the Great Abbey by the Thames, and heard Pitt speak in the Parliament House at Westminster.

AUSTIN DOBSON.

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An Account of Proposals made Nearly Two Centuries Ago to Found Public Libraries.

THE chief aim of "The Library Association" is and should be to promote the study of library management and library economics, to cement the brotherhood of those who have to deal with books and their readers, and generally to throw the light of experience upon the practical duties of the librarian. Yet there are many side-paths and interesting walks which afford a charming variety, and grateful repose from the daily routine and clatter of the well-trod bibliographical road. Such a by-path was the account of the interesting little tract upon Scotch Parochial libraries, the short story of which I had the pleasure of reading to the Association at Glasgow. Since then, two similar pieces have been brought to notice, so that I propose this evening to brace together the three in the few remarks I have to make.

1. "An Overture for Founding and Maintaining of Bibliotheks in every Paroch throughout the Kingdom : Humbly offered to the consideration of the present Assembly. Printed in the year 1699." This rare tract, now belonging to the Free Public Library, Wigan, was discovered by its chief librarian, Mr. Henry T. Folkard, in a volume of old tracts which he purchased from a second-hand London bookseller some time ago. In shape it is the usual pot 4to,¹ common in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is rudely printed with the worn roman Dutch type of the period, but where or by whom does not appear. The author's name is not mentioned, but from an interesting communication in the Aug.-Sept. number of the *Library Chronicle*, from the pen of Prof. William P. Dickson, it is all but certain that it proceeded from the Rev. James Kirkwood.² The tract is extremely rare; it is not found in the British Museum collections, nor in Sion College, nor at Lambeth Palace, nor under the inhospitable roof of Dr. Williams' library. It is not in the Bodleian, nor the University Library of Cambridge, nor the Advocates', nor the Signet, nor the University Library of Edinburgh; nor in any of the extensive col-

¹ The size called "Pot" took its name from the outline of a jug or pot which formed its distinguishing water-mark. In measurement it was a little smaller than foolscap, and was a common size especially for folio books in the 16th and 17th centuries. The size has long been discarded by paper-makers.

² For an account of this divine, and his proposed Irish Bible, see Dr. Dickson's article.

lections of books at St. Andrews, or Aberdeen. The only other copy at present known is that owned by Prof. Ferguson, of Glasgow.

Let us now say something of the "Overtures," made in this tract by the reverend bibliophile, some of which are remarkably arbitrary and impracticable.

He begins by arguing, in well-turned phrases, the great importance to young men especially that they should have free access to many and good books; of the extreme inconvenience under which students then laboured, from the fact that books at that time had so vastly multiplied that very few could afford to buy them, and if they did the expense of carrying them from place to place, made it cheaper to sell than move them, in which case they fetched next to nothing. Thus students in the country districts had little chance of improving their minds, having no access to books; *ergo*, free libraries were a necessity for the intellectual growth of the nation.

As to the ways and means to be adopted to bring about a more desirable state of things the author's views are startling. As every parish in the kingdom ought to have a free library, he proposes—First, that a convenient place in every parish shall be set apart for the reception of books. Secondly, that every parish minister in the kingdom *shall* place *all* his private books in the place chosen, and that four catalogues of such books shall be written out; one for the late owner, one for the presbytery, one to be kept in the new library, and the fourth to go to the chief library in Edinburgh. The books to be fairly valued and the minister to be paid for them by an annual tax on the income of each parish. As a librarian would be necessary, the parish school-master should undertake that duty, and also learn how to bind books, for which services he might have a small addition to his salary. That one general system of cataloguing should be adopted in all the parishes for ease of reference (there speaks the experienced bibliographer) and every *good* book be placed upon the shelves as soon as published. All this of course would demand a considerable sum of money which could easily be obtained by levying one month's "cess" on all church incomes, or say £72,000, *Scots*. (A Pound Scots is equal to 15. 8d. sterling.)

Our author supposes that the fund so created would more than suffice, and therefore still further develops his ideas, which certainly to us appear far ahead of his time. He proposes the erection and fitting up of a complete printing office, under the direction of a Committee appointed by the General Assembly, who should choose such works, new or old, for printing, as they thought appropriate. Some ministers might object to part with their books and stipends,

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such men would be unreasonable and unworthy their high vocation, for if adopted the benefits, generally, would be great. For instance, many people, now unwillingly idle, would be put in work, and much money now spent abroad in buying books would be spent at home, while the advantage to young men would be incalculable, for instead of being compelled to travel in strange parts in pursuit of knowledge, and so falling into habits of drinking, gambling and whoring, they would stay in the midst of their home virtues. In short, the scheme, if carried out properly, would not only benefit every parish so that their libraries would soon vie with the most sumptuous collections abroad, but would divert a large trade in printing from Europe to Scotland.

2. The second tract to which I would draw attention is in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, and is the same as that described by Prof. Dickson, in the number of the *Library Chronicle* already mentioned, it is entitled "A copy of a letter, anent a project for erecting a library in every Presbytery, or at least County in the Highlands," and was printed in 1702, at Edinburgh. Professor Dickson identifies the writer of both these tracts as the Rev. James Kirkwood, a native of Dunbar, sometime minister of Minto, and afterwards rector of Astwick, in Bedfordshire. In March, 1703, Mr. Kirkwood was present at a meeting of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, when he was appointed Corresponding Member for the Kingdom of Scotland. In the succeeding November the Society received "Letters and papers from Mr. Kirkwood concerning the Erecting of Lending Libraries in the Highlands," which obtained the strong approval and recommendation of the committee. Probably the "papers" included the very tract under notice, the scope of which not having been detailed by Dr. Dickson, I will give a few particulars.

Says the writer "It is a work of no small difficulty to purchase a parcel of good books for the public advantage, nor is it less difficult to preserve and secure them for posterity when they are purchased." After reasons for promoting libraries, he proposes that every county in the Highlands shall have a library, to be founded by public and private benefactions. Books and money for the purpose may be sent to Mr. Taylor, a bookseller at the Ship, or to Mr. Robinson, at the Golden Lion, in St. Paul's Church Yard, London.

As to rules: a proper place, which must be *dry*, is to be chosen, and the books kept under lock and key. Some may be lent out, but no one to have more than two at a time, and they must be approved preachers, schoolmasters or students. Each book to have

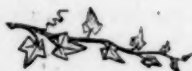
its price against it in the catalogue, and every borrower to deposit one-fourth more than the value as a security for its safe return. No book to be kept longer than six weeks, and every half-year a visit of inspection to be made by the Presbytery.

The whole tone and scope of this 1703 proposal is so different from the other of 1699, that had not Prof. Dickson given good reasons for attributing them both to the Rev. James Kirkwood, anyone would suppose them to be quite distinct in origin.

3. The third piece, which refers to England, is also preserved in the Advocates' Library. It is a broadside, and is headed "A Proposal for erecting Parochial Libraries in the meanly endow'd Cures throughout England." Without place, date, or printer's name. The author says: Many will be surprised to hear, that in England and Wales there are above 2000 parishes where the income is under £30, of which 1200 are under £20, and 500 under £10. Of necessity these are without books, a deficiency which good men have often tried to supply. A committee of clergy and laity have met to promote the good work, and so far prospered that they have got together over 3,000 folios, 4,000 4tos. and 8vos., besides having put to press many books now out of print. Fifty-two libraries are now nearly complete, and 500 more proposed. An Act of Parliament has been passed (1708) for the better preservation of Parochial Libraries, and those, who are willing to be benefactors to this charity, are desired to pay the sum they shall contribute to Mr. Henry Hoare in Fleet Street, London.

Before ending I would draw attention to a book just issued by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge. It contains their "Minutes and Correspondence" for the first seven years of their existence, has much interesting information about parochial, colonial and lending libraries, in the collaboration of which our fellow-member Mr. R. B. Prosser has assisted.

WILLIAM BLADES.



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The Appledore Private Press, U.S.A. I.

APPLEDORE, once a farm house and now the homestead of Mr. W. J. Linton, wood-engraver and poet, is in the township of Hamden, just outside New Haven, Connecticut, on the old road to Boston. Three regicides, Goffe, Whalley, and Dixwell, were sheltered at New Haven; and the first two were buried there. Hamden is doubtless a corruption of Hampden. What more appropriate residence could be found for so sturdy a republican as Mr. Linton?

Forty years ago Mr. Linton was one of the founders of the "Leader," a London weekly newspaper advocating republican principles. His partners, among whom were George Henry Lewes and Thornton Hunt, disappointed him, and he withdrew from the speculation. To make amends he started in 1851 the "English Republican," a monthly magazine first printed at Leeds. After a while, thinking it advisable to do the printing for himself, he got a press, and men to work for him, at his house, Brantwood, where Mr. Ruskin now resides. Very little was composed by himself, and he did little presswork; but at Brantwood he gained the practical experience which he afterwards turned to account so well.

It was in 1867, or thereabouts, that he went to live in America. From New Haven to New York is a distance of seventy-four miles. For several years he took or sent his blocks to New York to have them printed; but at length, to save trouble, he bought a press. Having got the press, he borrowed some type of a friend, and amused himself with printing, for private distribution, "Wind-Falls," a choice little collection of some two hundred extracts from imaginary plays. In 1879 he wrote a Memoir of his old Chartist friend, James Watson, then lately dead, and printed fifty copies for presentation. The Memoir was reprinted (very carelessly), for general circulation, by Abel Heywood, of Manchester, in 1880. Mr. Linton's third achievement was a small collection, printed in 1881, of translations in verse from Victor Hugo and Béranger. The rendering of Béranger's "Sans respect pour votre printemps" is singularly happy.

In 1882 appeared the fourth production of the Appledore Press, the beautiful Anthology, "Golden Apples of Hesperus. Poems not in the Collections," a tall 8vo. of two hundred pages, with ample margins. The impression was limited to two hundred and twenty-five copies. Few books of our time will be more dearly prized in

the future by collectors. Were it only for the exquisitely engraved frontispiece representing

"the gardens fair
Of Hesperus and his daughters three
That sing about the golden tree,"

the volume would never lack admirers. But there are no less than a hundred ornamental headings and vignettes, all of finished elegance. In the preface Mr. Linton writes:—"For anything unusual or unsatisfactory in the production of the book I ask consideration: the whole of it,—drawing, engraving, composition and printing, being the work of my own hands, at odd times, with long intervals, and many hindrances." Never was apology less necessary. As for the engraving, no living man could have done it half so well; and the printing, so far from resembling the work of an amateur, might challenge comparison with the productions of the Chiswick Press. The poems in this enchanting volume are worthy of their handsome livery. They number a hundred and fifty, ranging from William Dunbar to Rossetti. Landor's "Hamadryad," beautiful at all times, acquires here an added charm of loveliness from its delightful setting.

Mr. Linton's fifth publication, "In dispraise of a Woman. Catullus with Variations," 1886, 8vo., is one of the most whimsical of literary curiosities. He has taken Catullus' epigram, "Nulli se dicit mulier mea nubere malle," and has given thirty-two different renderings of it in English verse. Such a *tour de force* is surely without example. Here are two of the thirty-two quatrains:—

"I love you so, great Jove himself should seek
My love in vain: ' so whispers my fond girl.
Well said, but yet, for all that blossomy cheek,
We part. With how slight wind a wave will curl."
"With none, that woman tells me would she wed
Except with me: No! not with Jove himself.
Believe her? take a summer wind to bed;
Or keep your running water on a shelf."

As the impression was limited to twenty-five copies, collectors will have some difficulty in securing this "odd volume." It is printed in choice italic type, with sumptuous margins, three quatrains to the page.

A. H. BULLEN.

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The Bibliography and Classification of French History.

I HAVE had three practical objects in writing this paper :¹—firstly, to draw attention to an important work, just published, on the bibliography of French History ; secondly, briefly to discuss the classification of the subject ; and thirdly, to illustrate certain proposals for a bibliography of our own National History, submitted by me at the Plymouth meeting of the Library Association in 1885.

The title of the work I have to speak of is *Bibliographie de l'Histoire de France: Catalogue méthodique et chronologique des sources et des ouvrages relatifs à l'histoire de France depuis les origines jusqu'en 1789*; par G. Monod, Paris, librairie Hachette et Cie., 1888, 8vo. pp. xi, 420. M. Monod is well known among the younger French historians as the editor of the *Revue Historique*, and the author of works of merit on the history of his country. With his brother he translated Green's *History of the English People*. Before dealing specially with M. Monod's *Bibliographie*, it may be of interest to take a rapid chronological view of his chief predecessors in the same field of research.

I. SKETCH OF THE LITERATURE OF THE SUBJECT.

France is the mother country of bibliography, and in the historical, as well as almost every other department of the science, she stands first and foremost. In 1618 André du Chesne published his excellent *Bibliothèque des Auteurs qui ont écrit l'histoire et topographie de la France*, much improved in the second edition, Paris, 1627, both in 12mo. The titles are reproduced, with places, dates and sizes, in all bibliographical preciseness. The arrangement is classified under chronological and systematic headings.

The work printed in the book next mentioned is merely an index to Du Chesne's great collection of French Chronicles. This is an edition by J. A. Fabricius, at Hamburg in 1708, of three small treatises, under the title of *Isagoge in notitiam scriptorum historie Gallie, qua continentur*, I. *Andr. Duchesne Bibliotheca chronologica scriptorum ab originibus regni francie ad sua usque tempora*; II, *Chr. Gryphii scriptorum seculi xvii de rebus gallicis*; III, *Herm. Diet. Meibomii de Gallicæ historie periodis et scriptoribus dissertatio*.

¹ Read at the November Meeting of the Library Association.

The first edition of the memorable *Bibliothèque historique de la France, contenant le catalogue de tous les ouvrages qui traitent de l'histoire de ce royaume*, of Father Jacques Lelong, librarian of the Oratory in Paris, was printed in 1719. This and his *Bibliotheca Sacra* (both of which have been vastly improved by later editors) will ever keep green the name of Lelong in the memory of his brethren. A new and enlarged issue of the *Bibliothèque Historique* was published by Fevret de Fontette in 1768-78, 5 vols. folio. In spite of errors and omissions this immense work is still the most important of its class. It deals with ecclesiastical as well as political and social history, and describes MSS., prints, drawings, portraits, &c., as well as printed books. Here and there are brief but sufficient descriptive notes. The fifth volume includes excellent indexes. Paul Lacroix issued a couple of *Dissertations sur la Bibliothèque Historique* (1838), pointing out some inaccuracies and pleading for a new edition, and S. Lieutaud *Une Liste de portraits français jusque l'année 1775* (2^e éd. 1847, 8^o) which should be procured to complete the original work. To the well-known *Mélanges tirés d'une grande bibliothèque* of the Marquis de Paulmy and Contant d'Orville belongs a volume of small importance, *Bibliothèque historique à l'usage des Dames, contenant un catalogue raisonné de tous des livres nécessaires pour faire un cours complet d'histoire en langue française*. Paris, 1779, 8^o. Some copies were issued separately in 1837 of a useful contribution by J. Desnoyers to the *Annuaire de la Société de l'Histoire de France*, for that year, under the title of *Indication des principaux ouvrages propres à faciliter les travaux relatifs à l'histoire de France*. The *Bibliothèque géographique, historique, et statistique de la France*, Paris, 1835, 8^o, of A. A. Pihan Delaforest, and the *Bibliographie historique et topographique de la France*, Paris, 1845, of A. Girault de Saint-Fargeau may both be mentioned, although they belong more precisely to the class of topographical bibliography.

The National Library of France is so rich as regards the literature of the country that the printed *Catalogue de l'histoire de France* of the Bibliothèque Nationale goes far to complete Lelong as regards printed sources. The first volume of this very valuable catalogue, which is minutely classified, was published in 1855. The titles of the books are given with commendable fulness and precision. Down to 1879 eleven handsome quartos had appeared. It was then felt that the expense of type was too great, and two Supplements (vols. 12 and 13) were issued in the same form but lithographed.

In 1867 Dr. Alexis Dureau brought out the first and only volume of what he intended as an annual review, *Notes bibliographiques pour*

servir à l'étude de l'histoire et de l'archéologie 1^{re} année, 1863, sm. 8vo. A similar work, also not continued, is the *Annuaire des sciences historiques, bibliographie des ouvrages d'érudition*, Paris, 1877, 8vo, by the Vicomte Amédée Caix de Saint-Aymour. The meagre account of historical prints given by Lelong can be supplemented by the *Inventaire de la collection d'estampes relatives à l'histoire de France léguée en 1863 à la Bibliothèque Nationale par Michel Hennin*, Paris, 1877-85, 5 vols. 8vo, compiled by G. Duplessis. Alfred Franklin's *Sources de l'histoire de France: notices bibliographiques et analytiques des inventaires et des recueils de documents relatifs à l'histoire de France*, Paris, 1877, 8vo, merely reproduces the lists of contents of collections of sources. It is classified, with full indexes. A subject greatly needing an investigator was treated by A. Germond de Lavigne in *Les Pamphlets de la fin de l'Empire, des Cent Jours, et de la Restauration*, 1814-17, Paris, 1879, 12°.

The late M. Gustave Masson contributed to the "Early Chroniclers of Europe" series, *France* (London, S.P.C.K. 1879, sm. 8vo.) rather literary and critical than bibliographical. Since 1880 M. Charles Emile Ruelle, librarian of the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève at Paris, has been bringing out the successive octavo parts of his laborious work:—*Bibliographie générale des Gaules: répertoire systématique et alphabétique des ouvrages, mémoires et notices concernant l'histoire, la topographie, la religion, les antiquités et le langage de la Gaule jusqu'à la fin du V^e Siècle*. The titles are in classified order, without notes. The Société de l'Histoire de France furnishes annually, in its *Annuaire-Bulletin*, a review of the literature relating to the history of the country. This idea has been further developed by the Ministry of Public Instruction, which began in 1883 to supply an elaborate yearly report, entitled *Répertoire des travaux historiques contenant l'analyse des publications faites en France et à l'étranger sur l'histoire, les monuments, et la langue de la France pendant l'année 1882*, Paris, 1883, &c., 8vo, an invaluable help to students and bibliographers. A distinguished body of French scholars have undertaken the work, which is being continued on a scale of extraordinary completeness. The same department is also bringing out in parts a *Bibliographie des travaux historiques et archéologiques publiées par les sociétés savantes de la France*, 1885, &c., 4to, by Ro. de Lasteyrie and E. Lefevre-Pontalis.

General topographical literature does not concern us, but the bibliography of manners and customs in Paris for three centuries is of such historical importance that the *Bibliographie Parisienne: tableaux de mœurs* (1600-1880), Paris, P. Rouquette, 1887, 8vo, of Paul Lacombe, must not be passed over. Prefixed is a preface by

M. Jules Cousin, with an account of the classification of the Paris section of the catalogue of the Bibliothèque Carnavalet. The titles are fully transcribed, with ample and interesting notes; whenever a work is to be found in the Bibliothèque Carnavalet the fact is notified. The arrangement is chronological, with an alphabetical index.

As may be seen from the preceding sketch there is no lack of materials, but among the various works mentioned not one can be recommended as both comprehensive and portable. The great compilation of Lelong stops in the middle of the eighteenth century, and like the *Catalogue de l'Histoire de France*, besides being far too voluminous for easy reference, is only to be found on the shelves of large libraries. The work of Franklin (*Sources de l'Histoire de France*), is restricted to printed documents and collections, and the classified catalogue which forms part of the last volume of Brunet (*Manuel du Libraire*) is imperfect and quite unsatisfactory as a guide for the student. From the title of M. Monod's *Bibliographie* it will be seen that it stops at 1789. To continue the work on the same scale, down to the present day, would require another volume. M. Monod takes for his plan that adopted in the last edition of F. C. Dahlmann's *Quellenkunde der deutschen Geschichte*, 5^{te} Auflage, *Quellen und Bearbeitungen der deutschen Geschichte neu zusammengestellt von G. Waitz*, 3^{te} Auflage, Göttingen, 1883, 8vo. The first issue of this useful book appeared in 1830. A similar system of classification to that in the *Quellenkunde*, with a selection of works briefly described, is followed in the *Bibliographie*, which is arranged under two parts; one classified by subjects and the other chronological. The first contains preliminary and illustrative studies, such as bibliography, chronology, palæography, diplomatics, &c., together with collections of documents, as well as books on subjects which cannot be assigned to a particular period, for instance, relating to provinces and towns, ecclesiastical affairs, the history of classes, &c. The chronological part is divided into epochs, which are further sub-divided into convenient periods. Under each heading are first arranged the original sources, then the second-hand authorities. The works relating to law, manners and customs are grouped together at the end of each period. The titles are not placed alphabetically but according to their special subjects whenever the heading is of a comprehensive description. M. Monod fears that complaint may be made that his classification is not always scientifically rigorous. On a few occasions the same book is cited more than once. There are frequent references from the second part to the first, more especially with respect to institutions. Sometimes a book may not exactly belong to the period in which it

may be found, as it may also treat of earlier or later events: for this reason the student must not omit to consult neighbouring headings in the chronological division. These are, however, the small difficulties unavoidable in all systems of classification. Authors seldom have the good feeling to make their books adaptable to cut and dried plans of arrangement, while their titles frequently convey but a faint idea of the scope of the contents, and puzzle both cataloguer and classifier. Titles are transcribed in the *Bibliographie* as briefly as possible. The author gives no bibliographical information, and this is perhaps the weak feature of the book. Only the best or most accessible edition of a frequently printed treatise is mentioned, and the peculiarities of rival or successive editions are not noticed. In some instances the first issue of an historical text is given. Manuscript sources are not dealt with. Works in English, German, Italian and other languages are included, and the existence of French translations of them is indicated. The subject headings number 62 and the titles 4542. There is an alphabetical index of the names of the authors.

II. THE CLASSIFICATION OF FRENCH HISTORY.

In comparing M. Monod's plan with that of Brunet (*Manuel du Libraire*) the practical advantages of the double method, by subjects and by periods of time, will be seen at once. The arrangement in the *Catalogue de l'Histoire de France* errs in the direction of excessive elaboration, and that of Mr. Melvil Dewey (*Decimal Classification*, 1885, 2nd ed.) on the other hand consists merely of a few divisions under reigns. Other English schemes in print are too unimportant for notice. M. Monod's classification is as follows:

PART I.—COLLECTIONS AND GENERAL WORKS.

I. Auxiliary Sciences.

1. General Bibliography and History of Sources.
2. Chronology.
3. Linguistics.
4. Palaeography and Diplomatics.
5. Seals and Heraldry.
6. Numismatics.
7. Archaeology.
8. Genealogy.
9. Biography.
10. Geography.

13. Collections of Chronicles for France.
14. Collections of Chronicles for the Provinces.
15. Collections of Chronicles for neighbouring countries.
16. Ditto
17. Ecclesiastical History.
18. Collections of Charters and Diplomas.
 - (a) General Catalogues.
 - (b) General Collections.
 - (c) Provincial Catalogues and Collections (by Provinces).
 - (d) Catalogues and Collections for Neighbouring Countries (by Countries).

II. Sources.

11. General Collections for Europe.
12. General Collections for France.

19. Collections of Treaties and Acta Diplomatica.
20. Legislative and Judicial Sources : General Collections.
21. Ditto, Provincial.
22. Monuments and Inscriptions.

III. Second-hand Authorities.

23. General History.
24. Provincial, Municipal and Local History : General Works.
25. Ditto, Special Works by Provinces.
26. Political, Administrative, Judicial and Financial Institutions
 - (a) General Works.
 - (b) Political Institutions (Diplomacy ; Royalty and Rights of the Crown ; Grand Officers and Functionaries of the Court ; Ministers ; Royal Councils).
 - (c) Administrative Institutions (Administration in general ; feudal rights ; chambre des comptes ; municipal admini-

nistration ; états généraux ; états provinciaux).

- (d) Judicial Institutions (History of law ; law proper ; judicial organization ; courts of justice).

27. Religious History.

- (a) General.
- (b) Canon Law.
- (c) Gallican Church.
- (d) Protestant Church.
- (e) Local History (by towns for Catholic history and by provinces for the Protestant).

28. History of Classes.

29. Military and Naval History.
30. History of Industry, Commerce and Agriculture.
31. Manners and Customs.
32. Public Instruction.
33. Arts and Literature.

IV. Collections of Periodicals and Memoirs.

34. Collections of Memoirs.
35. Reviews.

PART II.—HISTORY BY PERIODS.

I. The Origins to the Invasion of the Franks.

36. Barbaric and Roman Gaul.
37. Introduction of Christianity.
38. Law and Institutions.

II. Gaul from the Frank Invasion to the Capets.

39. The Merovingians.
40. The Carolingians ; Hugues Capet.
41. Law and Institutions.

III. France under the Capets.

42. The first three successors of Hugues Capet ; the Normans ; the First Crusade.
43. Louis VI and Louis VII ; Second Crusade.
44. The Normans in Sicily and South Italy.
45. Philip Augustus and Louis VIII.
46. Louis IX and Philip III.
47. Philip the Handsome and his sons.
48. Law and Institutions.

IV. War of 100 years and ruin of Feudalism.

49. Philip VI, John II, Charles V.
50. Charles VI, Charles VII, Louis XI.
51. Law, Institutions and Manners.
- V. Wars of Italy, Renaissance and Reformation, Wars of Religion, Struggle against the House of Austria.

52. Charles VIII and Louis XII.
53. Francis I, Henry II, Francis II, Charles IX.

54. Renaissance.
55. Protestant Reformation.
56. Catholic Reformation.
57. Henry III and Henry IV ; Wars of Religion ; the League.
58. Louis XIII.
59. Law, Manners and Institutions.

VI. The Absolute Monarchy to 1789.

60. Louis XIV.
61. Louis XV and Louis XVI.
62. Law, Manners and Institutions.

The classification is sufficiently minute within the bounds of practical usefulness, and is carried out in a systematic manner, the sections

running logically one from the other. M. Monod evidently did not start with a cut and dried plan, but let the titles suggest their own arrangement, which is after all the best method of classifying whenever the person undertaking the work is thoroughly master of his materials.

The above arrangement should be compared with that adopted in the Royal University Library at Halle, and fully described in its place in the general system by Dr. O. Hartwig in his admirable *Schema des Realkatalogs der Königlichen Universitätsbibliothek zu Halle a. S.*, Leipzig, 1888, 8vo (*Beihfte zum Centralblatt*, III), one of the most valuable contributions to librarianship that have been published for a long time. Here are fewer headings than are provided by M. Monod, and while a series of general works under subjects is placed at the beginning, there is more anxiety to bring together the special works in a main chronological order.

III. PROPOSALS FOR A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH HISTORY.

I wish finally to say a few words in illustration of my proposals with respect to the printed sources of our own national history. These were fully explained by me in a paper read at the Plymouth meeting of the Library Association in 1885, and printed in the *Library Chronicle* for December, 1886. A few copies were issued in pamphlet form. From this I have already borrowed (with additions) in the review of the literature of the subject at the commencement of the present article. The difference between my proposals and M. Monod's *Bibliographie* is that he only gives a selection of the chief books, and no attempt is made to help the bibliographical inquirer, nor is any kind of literary information supplied. Many of the titles, which are presented in a painfully abbreviated form, seem to have been taken by him at second hand. While the chronological division is fairly complete, the first part—Collections and general Works—does not profess fulness. The auxiliary sciences, such as linguistics, heraldry, numismatics, archæology, genealogy, &c. are meagrely figured. Biography, which makes so large a show in the *Catalogue de l'Histoire de France*, is only represented by general works. The want of illustrative information is acknowledged by the author: "Pour qu'une bibliographie comme la nôtre eût toute son utilité, il faudrait y joindre un texte explicatif et indiquer, au moins sommairement, quels sont les textes essentiels, les ouvrages auxquels on doit tout d'abord avoir recours. Nous ne pouvions pas songer à faire ce travail qui, pour être vraiment utile, exigerait un autre volume, mais nous avons fait précéder d'un astér-

isque les titres des ouvrages qui nous ont paru mériter d'être signalés particulièrement aux étudiants, ceux qui doivent être consultés avant tous les autres" (*Préface*, p. ix).

In my opinion "a bibliography of our national history should be drawn up on the most comprehensive scale consistent with practical attainment, and should include the history of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland from the earliest to recent times. The Colonies, India, and foreign possessions, would have to be treated from the so-called 'imperial' point of view, so as to avoid a mass of literature purely of local interest. . . . Having thus roughly defined the area to be covered, I will at once say that I propose to include not merely a selection of the best works, but all the books, pamphlets, pieces in collections, and articles in periodicals and transactions of societies, connected with the subject" (*Proposals for a Bibliography of National History*, London, 1886, large 8vo., p. 10). I should only exclude MSS., prints, portraits, and drawings, as requiring a different method of treatment. Speaking broadly, my *Bibliography* would contain everything printed relating to national and general, as opposed to local or special history. For more complete details I will refer those interested in the subject to my previous statements. Having thus briefly indicated the wider scope that should be taken, I will reproduce a few remarks as to certain desirable bibliographical and literary features. "The work should be systematically and chronologically classified, with complete alphabetical indexes. The titles should invariably be taken from the books, &c., themselves whenever possible. I am greatly in favour of giving full titles always, but some latitude must be allowed in order not to extend inconveniently the size of the work. I should also like to see mentioned every edition of a frequently printed book, but in the same way it might be found necessary only to describe the first and the last or best state. Further completeness would be attained by indicating the number of pages in books in single volumes" (*ib.* p. 11). There should be notes. Some guide to the student is absolutely necessary when a complete bibliography is attempted and not merely a selection of the most meritorious literature. Advice as to editions, editors, and points of bibliographical obscurity should be supplied, and to this I should add now and then estimates of a critical nature. The work of a bibliographer is not at an end when he has copied a title-page and arranged it with others in some kind of order. The only valid argument against notes is that they would unduly increase the size of a work already bulky, but such observations as I suggest should be used sparingly and not consist of commonplace infor-

mation to be found in every book of reference. M. Monod's treatise affords a vivid idea of the laboriousness of an undertaking, even less extensive than the one I contemplate. His preparations involved the work of years, and he gratefully acknowledges the help of several excellent *collaborateurs*, especially M. Leroux, M. Emile Molinier, and M. Auguste Molinier. The printing was begun in 1884, and only finished just recently. All these considerations, however, do not lead me to alter my views as to the desirability of completeness, and I hope I may have the opportunity to carry my proposals into practical effect. I trust I may be allowed in conclusion warmly to recommend to every librarian and student M. Monod's most interesting and valuable *Bibliographie*, which, within the limits already mentioned, has been compiled by a most competent authority in a manner worthy of the subject.

HENRY R. TEDDER.

The Marriage of Cupid and Psyche.

(ED. ANDREW LANG.)

On the Fly-leaf.

CURSED be he who robs me of this book,
With all his race. Let it be desolate
And brought a-low if so be it was great,
For that he, wickedly, impiously took
That was another's. Let great serpents look
At him, a-sleeping, with dull eyes of Hate;
And let him, waking, be compelled of Fate
To cast his corse within the nearest brook.
Here is a book made after mine own heart—
Good print, good tale, good picture and good sense,
Good learning and good labour of old days.
Book! thou and I henceforth must nowise part.
Together we will tread Life's journey hence
And only part at old Death's waterways.

CHARLES SAYLE.

Of Librarians. I.

THESE, though bearing a common name are of many diverse kinds, and not by one sign or a few are the members of the craft to be discerned; but nevertheless have they all some things in common by which your true librarian will readily be discovered. For not only are they human—which some indeed have doubted when contemplating one of the rarer species—but their common bent engenders a likeness between the highest and the lowest. From this category we are fain to exclude the mere hireling, for indeed he stands apart in this as in all other crafts and callings. And truly it is curious to note how the conditions of his work affect your librarian; how his character and manner be governed by his work. To deal with every variety would, I fear me, be a thankless task; yet it may be, perchance, not unprofitable to limn the features of the more notable ones. And first—for indeed he considereth himself *facile princeps* in all things—

OF THE "PRACTICAL LIBRARIAN."

Himself chooseth this name, and is proud when he is spoken of as a "Jack-of-all-trades," and observeth not that his flatterer thrusteth his tongue into his cheek and chortleth softly, as who should say "and eke master of none." He vaunteth himself above his fellows, and speaketh learnedly of buckram and of its virtues. The wares he deals in are the beggarly elements of books and things bookish; and if one should speak to him of the spiritual essence of books, or would fain have his opinion on a doubtful passage in Dan Chaucer, your practical librarian (God save the mark!) hath ever ready a pat quotation from an ancient author who ever loved a doubtful epigram—"The librarian who reads is lost." His library is littered with cunning inventions, more apt to attract the wayward attention of a thoughtless student and to amuse him by their ingenuity, than to tempt him to his book. Speak to this librarian of his catalogue, and he will presently wax eloquent on the importance of all cards being of the size prescribed by the "Universal Emporium," and he will straightway draw a fine meter from his pouch and triumphantly prove to you the orthodoxy of his. He disdaineth the old-fashioned ladder—fit emblem to the student of his upward path—and will peck at his topmost books with a sort of mechanic crane. The fair bindings be chipped and the goodly tomes fall about his long ears, but what of that. Is not the thing mechanic, which he misnames practical, and so also himself.

THEOPHRASTUS JUNIOR.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Museum Notes.

To the benighted folk, who deem the literature of catalogues and their makers "dry," we commend Dr. Garnett's article in the *Universal Review*, on the Catalogue of the British Museum. It is a brightly written history of the Catalogue-making at the Museum, from the earliest down to the present time. From the "Cave-dwellings" epoch, when the thousands of Civil War tracts were dismissed with a single entry under "Anglia," we pass to the time when Hartwell Horne made elephantine attempts to grapple with a classed catalogue. "He had personally arranged the classes of "Chemical and Medical Philosophy," . . . with such sub-divisions as "Treatises on Plethora—on the *Vis Medicatrix Nature*—Use of Flagellation, friction and philtres," &c., &c. "The list," says Dr. Garnett, "may be commended to the study of those who think classification a simple matter."

Speaking of the future of the Catalogue, Dr. Garnett indulges in the hope that, when Governments grow more generous, the Museum will be able to undertake the national, or rather universal cataloguing for which it is already so well equipped. If, as it should, the second edition of the catalogue be sent to press at the end of this century, "the world would have the nearest approach to a register of all literature that, in the absence of any feasible scheme for a universal catalogue by co-operation among public libraries, it seems likely to obtain. Even the more ambitious project might be promoted, if public libraries would consent to take the Museum Catalogue as a basis, and publish lists of such of their own books as are not to be found in it. By this means, the expense and labour of cataloguing would be very greatly reduced, and the combination of these lists with the Museum Catalogue, when it came to be printed for the third time, say about 1925, would, at last, provide the desideratum of a universal register of literature."

Oxford Notes.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY.—A full report on the progress of the library from 1882 to 1887, compiled by the Librarian, has just been issued to all members of Congregation and to others, and so practically published. It deserves a full review in our columns, but at any rate a brief account of it may be fittingly given at once. The Report is divided into three parts, treating of growth, work and finance respectively, and every branch of these divisions is apparently described with great minuteness and often illustrated by tables. To one who derives his knowledge of the library from this report, that great Institution would seem to be in a flourishing state. Its record of "donations and exchanges" is for 1885, 5692; for 1886, 9317; for 1887, 16,623; but we are informed that almost every bookseller's catalogue received is counted as one in the above totals (!), and that in the latter year 11,468 were blue books presented exceptionally by the House of Lords. The number of items received under the Copyright Act amounted in 1887 to 31,584: nearly 1000 MSS. were purchased within the period: the staff has been greatly enlarged by the employment of boys, and "from a disciplinary point of view the experiment has worked well." The Subject Catalogue of the printed works was in so advanced a state that, at the end of 1887, "it was esti-

mated that in four years the entire mass of materials would be ready to be finally revised by the Librarian," and this although, in 1887, the whole system of classification seems to have been altered from the old one to the new *shelf*-classification, introduced in 1883. These facts sufficiently indicate a prodigious amount of energy in the administration. It is true that the purchases of new books (exclusive of the Copyright accessions) have decreased yearly from 1885 to 1887, but this is due to "the fluctuations of book-production:" it is true that the purchases of second-hand books also diminished from 1507 in 1885, to 613 in 1886, and 1023 in 1887 (463 of the latter being MSS. from "British Asia," which in the two former years contributed only 8+26), but "it became necessary to gradually reduce this branch of book-expenditure:" it is true that the boys who paste and label are paid the same salary as the boys who learn to catalogue, but the apparent anomaly admits of explanation. It is true also that some hundreds of MSS. have had their press-marks altered, but this was due to the "incorporation of minor collections" and the "disincorporation of certain donation-collections." In fact for everything done there is some reason given, and the general impression left on an outsider is that there has been a great deal of change and re-organisation since the present librarian assumed his office. No one who knew his work at the London Institution would expect any other result. If we were in a critical mood, we might remark that on p. 4 it is stated that in 1883-84 the "donations from abroad were not distinguished from the new purchases," whereas, according to p. 8, a printed catalogue was annually issued up to and including 1885 of "all donations received in the previous year:" and that it is interesting to members of the L. A. U. K. to observe that "heavy volumes of extra size" are now bound by Mr. Nicholson in *backram*. Considering also the evidence afforded by the Report of extensive shiftings of collections within the library, it is a little uncomfortable to read that "most of the work [of this kind] done in the period under review was temporary." The tail-piece on p. 66 appears to be a very amusing and highly symbolical engraving: a fine bird sits in a vine, close to some ripe grapes, carolling a song of triumph: below squat two loathsome toads, bursting their sides with spleen. What does it mean? But these are small matters; the Report stands as an evidence of a great deal of hard work bestowed on a library which needed a large amount of revivifying force. We may conclude by condoling with the Librarian that, whereas in 1882 he was able to say in a public speech at Birmingham, "If a trusty Birmingham worker wanted the loan of a MS. for three months, it would be lent to the Central Free Library for his use," the Congregation of the University has seen fit to curtail the power implied in this statement and to make the consent of Convocation necessary for the granting of a loan.

The Rev. W. D. Macray is now passing through the Press a revised edition of his useful and interesting *Annals of the Bodleian Library*, published by Messrs. Rivingtons in 1868.

New Books.

Adam Dickson; or *sae sweet, sae bonnilie*. By Thomas Mason. Glasgow (Bryce). 1888. sm. 8vo. 3s. 6d.

It is no part of our business to review ordinary fiction, but, if we can ever be justified in making an exception, it is surely when a librarian writes a novel and makes his hero a member of the craft. Mr. Thomas Mason, of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Public Library, has made a most pro-

missing beginning in "Adam Dickson." A story of Scottish life and character, the narrative runs pleasantly and smoothly, and the incidents are, upon the whole, natural and cleverly conceived. The prevailing tone of the book is humorous—sometimes broadly so—but this is relieved by occasional touches of genuine pathos. If the hero's practical joke upon the young men of Cairnie is founded upon fact, we must at once lower the respect in which we have hitherto held the intellect of the provincial Scot. But "let us hope it isn't true." Mr. Mason's leading characters are well drawn and are evidently from the life. A certain want of proportion—the chief fault of the story—is one that experience will help the author to avoid. Meanwhile we can heartily congratulate Mr. Mason on his first essay.

The early Writings of William Makepeace Thackeray. By C. P. Johnson. (Stock.) 1888. 8vo. 7s. 6d.

This book consists of "Essays" reprinted from the *Athenæum*, giving the few extracts from *The Snob* and *The Gownsmen* of Thackeray's undergraduate days, and also his letters in connection with the *National Standard* and the *Constitutional*. The editor has anticipated in his preface the objections which may be brought against his book:—either it is too full, or it is not full enough, and it is hard to say which is the greater mistake on his part. Thackeray's horror of literary scavenging is well known. In one of his articles, quoted in this book, he speaks of "the careful record of unguarded moments" with disgust, and we wonder that Mr. Johnson should not have been prevented by the genius of his author from collecting in this manner the record of Thackeray's inglorious review days. Perhaps what will be most welcomed are the admirable illustrations, most of them portraits of Thackeray himself, with which this book is profusely adorned. There is an exquisite photogravure of a bust, made while Thackeray was at Charterhouse, which alone should make the volume desirable to all true lovers of the novelist. But the whole book should have been incorporated, in proper form, in the larger work *The Bibliography of Thackeray* which is advertised with it.

The Science of Thought. Three Introductory Lectures. By F. Max Müller. (Chicago.) 1886. sm. sq. 8vo. 2s. 6d.

These are the lectures delivered by Prof. Max Müller at the Royal Institution, by way of preface to his larger work, *The Science of Thought* (Longmans), with which he took the world by storm last year. The Professor has prefixed under form of a letter to a friend, a conversational preface to the volume before us, in which in his own charming manner he practically puts the whole question in a nut-shell, and, having answered it as far as he is himself concerned, cares no longer what others say. "I never felt called upon," he writes, "to write a book to which everybody should say *Amen*—When I write a book, I expect the world to say *Tamen*, as I have said *Tamen* to the world." The whole book, of course, flaunts his Theory of Nominalism to the skies; and we are not, in the *Library*, called upon to follow him to these heights. The end of the volume is devoted, by the way, to the extensive correspondence between Francis Galton, the Duke of Argyll, Prof. Romanes, and others, and the Professor, which the latter has doubtless, from many causes, fully "enjoyed." The lectures are, it is almost needless to say, admirable reading, whether one agrees with them or not.

The Astonishing History of Troy Town. By Q., author of *Dead Man's Rock*. Cassell & Co., 1888. sm. 8vo. 5s.

After *Dead Man's Rock* this book is somewhat disappointing, at any rate to those maturer readers who found themselves able to while away

an agreeable hour with its predecessor. But younger folk will no doubt thoroughly enjoy its rough humour, and will not strain too critically its improbable situations.

Cassell's *Miniature Cyclopædia*. Compiled by W. L. Clowes. Cassell & Co., 1888. Illust. m^o 3s. 6d.

A handy book to have near one's reading-chair, "containing about 30,000 articles, with information upon nearly 200,000 questions." By means of an ingenious code of symbols an extraordinary amount of matter has been compressed into this little volume.

France as it is. By André Lebon and Paul Pelet, specially written for English Readers, and translated from the French by Mrs. William Arnold. With three maps. Cassell & Co., 1888. sm. 8vo. 7s. 6d.

An excellent book, well translated; as comprehensive as an *Encyclopædia* article without its dryness. We know of no other book so well fitted to give a clear and accurate idea of the country, its polity and people in a few hours' reading. There are signs of undue haste in the printing, and the list of errata is by no means complete. The authors are fond of thought-provoking paradoxes. "If the Frenchman often does not see so far as some people, at least he sees more clearly." "France has had nobles, but never an aristocracy." The style is good, and the accomplished translator has skilfully preserved it.

The *Encyclopædic Dictionary*. Cassell & Co. 7 vols. crown 4to, £7. 7s.

We have received from Messrs. Cassell an advance sheet of the Preface to their *Encyclopædic Dictionary*, the last volume of which will shortly appear. The Preface is really an admirable essay on dictionary-making and the growth of words; and the typical Scot, who found a dictionary "dry reading," would rejoice in the interesting story the editors of this dictionary have to tell. Short of Dr. Murray's great undertaking, which our grandchildren may hope to see completed, there is no other dictionary comparable with the *Encyclopædic*. It is a book that should be found in every library.

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Professor Robertson Smith, editor of the "*Encyclopædia Britannica*," marked the completion of the ninth edition of that work, which has taken thirteen years to compile, by a banquet, on the evening of Dec. 11th, in the hall of Christ's College, Cambridge. Upwards of 100 gentlemen were present. The Chairman, in proposing "Literature," observed that a work of 24 volumes, with upwards of a thousand contributors, was somewhat too large a subject to be disposed of in a single toast. He should not attempt to say what the "*Encyclopædia Britannica*" had done for literature; but it was put upon its first lines by one who had an excellent and wise judgment of literature in all its branches, and who must, at least, have tried to get the best that could be found, not only in England, but throughout Europe and beyond the seas, on every literary subject. The circle of faces around the table was enough to show that they had not altogether failed. Out of that circle of contributors he had been able to fix upon one whom all would particularly appreciate, Dr. Garnett, who was a contributor to the eighth edition, a critic whose work was admired wherever English

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literature was known. Dr. Garnett responded to the toast, and said he saw with joy and pleasure the space which Homer and Plato, and Aristotle and Dante still occupied. This showed that what was good for one age was good for another, and that the same stars still continued to illumine the heaven of humanity, though new stars might shine in contiguity to the old, as Shakspeare shone near Sophocles. Dr. Archibald Geikie responded to the toast of Science, M. Yriarte to that of Art, and Mr. A. W. Black, in responding to the health of the publishers, mentioned that whereas the sale of the eighth edition of the Encyclopædia had been only five thousand copies, that of the ninth was already fifty thousand.

IMPORTANT news comes from Berlin. The German Government has made a large grant of money to defray the cost of printing the Catalogues of the principal public libraries of the Empire. The scheme is a magnificent one. The titles, with most elaborate descriptive notes, are to be printed on separate cards. The Berlin Library will be catalogued first, and copies distributed among the other libraries—so that they will only have to print such titles as are not represented by the Berlin catalogue. It is estimated that the work will occupy at least twenty-five years. This is news to make the ears of English bibliographers tingle. When may we hope an English Government will emulate—we will not say this generosity—but this wisdom?

An article by Mr. A. Innes Shand on "The Multiplication of Books" in the December number of *Murray's Magazine* has a painful interest for librarian-readers.

There is no paper whose indexing is better done than that of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. A half-hour spent in examining one of these indexes is an excellent way of fixing in the memory the principal events of the year. We congratulate Miss Hetherington on the high quality of her work.

In the *Richmond Herald* for December 7th there appeared an exceedingly clever and humorous article entitled "How to behave:—at the Free Library." In a sarcastic vein it sharply hits off the chief causes of offence of which a selfish boor is usually guilty when using—or abusing—the Public Library.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of Dec. 4th, prints, in "an interview with Mr. Edmund Routledge," an elaborate statement of the number of copies of popular books which have been sold by the firm of which Mr. Routledge is the head. It is a reply to Mr. Shand's article in *Murray's Magazine*.

Mr. W. E. A. Axon read a paper before the Manchester branch of the Teachers' Guild on Nov. 28th, in which he advocated a closer co-operation between teachers and librarians. He suggested that class parties should visit the libraries under the guidance of a teacher, and that a selected subject should be tracked out by means of catalogues, indices, and other library guides. A little training of this kind would soon make the pupils expert, and a door would be opened leading to pleasant and profitable experiences in later life.

Messrs. William Blackwood and Sons have issued the prospectus of a translation of John Napier of Merchiston's "Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis Constructio." The translator is Mr. William Rae Macdonald, who will add to the work a catalogue of the various editions of Napier's works; giving title-page, full collation, and notes, with names of the principal public libraries in this country, as well as of some on the continent, which are possessed of copies. The specimen pages of the catalogue issued with the prospectus give indications of a bibliographical work of considerable value and interest.

The Rev. Edgar Hoskins, Rector of St. Mary Magdalene, Fish Street,

has compiled a hand-list of Horae, Primers, and kindred books of devotion, according to the uses of Sarum and York and of the Reformed Church of England, from the earliest age of printing to A.D. 1558. The work, which will be published by Messrs. Rivingtons, will be welcomed by bibliographers and liturgical scholars as supplying a guide to the study of a class of books, many of which are extremely rare.

The Catalogue of the Library of Lord Crawford's Observatory is being privately printed and will be ready at an early date. In plan it is an author list, with short collations and brief notes to works of exceptional interest or rarity. In addition to the entries under authors' names, the literature relating to Comets, in which the Dun Echt Library is very rich, has been gathered under the subject heading, and will form a bibliography of that class of books.

Mr. W. Swan Sonnenschein has gone to press with a new and enlarged edition of his useful work, "Best Books."

Iceland has lost one of her most interesting living figures in the person of Dr. Jon Arnason, of Reykjavik, whose death is announced. He was especially famous for his great private collection of Icelandic sagas. He has been for many years keeper of the Public Library of Iceland, which has largely developed in his hands, and now contains nearly 30,000 volumes. Few living men have done so much as he to preserve the fading memorials of the history of his country. Arnason was born in 1820.

An article in *London Society*, Dec., "Recollections of Frederick the Noble," by E. Hudson, has references to the relations of authors and publishers.

A curious instance of the survival of a slang expression, which even age has not made respectable—is the word "Flam." Two hundred years ago it appears to have been used with precisely the same meaning as it bears to-day. On page 7 of "The / case / of / John Wilmore / truly and impartially related : / or a / looking-glass / for all / merchants and planters / that are concerned in the / American plantations. / London. / Printed for Edward Powell at the White Swan in / Little Britain 1682" /; *folio*—we read "upon which I bid him depart my room, and not come there with his flams to make disturbances."

The Chelsea Public Library Commissioners are completing the arrangements for the forthcoming conference to be held some time next month, to discuss the working of the Libraries Acts in London. With one exception the whole of the Metropolitan Commissioners have appointed representatives, and among the subjects set down for consideration are:—
1. Method of Collecting the Library Rate. 2. Control of Vestries.
3. Majorities, in Polling for Adoption of Acts. 4. Relation of Library Commissioners to the new Polytechnics and Technical Education Generally. 5. Union of Parishes.

A corrected and enlarged—the third—edition of "Notes on the Contents of the Wimbledon Free Public Library," by L. W. Longstaff, F.R.G.S., has recently been issued. Mr. G. B. Longstaff, M.A., M.B., issued a similar pamphlet for the Wandsworth Public Library in 1886.

Among the "Twelve Good Men, by Dean J. W. Burgon," London, J. Murray, 1888, 2 vols. 8vo, is Henry Octavius Coxe, of the Bodleian, who is appropriately characterised as "the large-hearted librarian." The biography of our former esteemed President is written with all the late Dean of Chichester's point and sympathy. The appendix to the first volume contains an account of Dr. Routh's library, bequeathed by him to the University of Durham.

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The September-October number of the *Library Journal* contains a report of the Catskills Conference of the American Library Association.

There is also "An American Comment" by Mr. E. C. Richardson, on our recent meeting at Glasgow, commended as "a live and dignified affair and hugely interesting," but with "more of the bibliographical and less of the practical than with us." English librarians are praised for their "good-fellowship" and "the papers in general were well written, with some regard for style—a hint for the A.L.A."

We are glad to learn that Mr. Cutter's "Revised Rules" are in the hands of the government printers.

The Rev. F. G. Waugh has printed 50 copies, for private circulation, of a second and revised edition of his interesting little volume "Members of the Athenæum Club from its foundation [1824-1888]," sm. 8vo.

The new (said to be the 100th) and sumptuous edition of the "Compleat Angler" of Walton and Cotton, edited by Mr. R. B. Marston, now published by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., contains a bibliographical record, by Mr. T. Westwood and Mr. Satchell.

The title of "A Publisher's Playground" (London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1888. 16mo, pp. 63), may be the excuse for an allusion to a volume of poetry in these columns. The author shows a considerable lyrical faculty and a vein of humour in his graceful verses.

The Rev. Dr. J. I. Mombert furnishes literary notes on some of the authorities in the appendix to his "History of Charles the Great (Charlemagne)" (London: Kegan Paul & Co., 1888, large 8vo, pp. xi, 564).

Under the title of "Pen and Ink: Papers on Subjects of more or less importance" (London: Longmans, 1888, sm. 8vo, pp. [viii] 226 [8]), Mr. Brander Matthews has reprinted eight articles connected with bookish matters.

Mr. George Allen advertises to be ready shortly "A complete Index and Collation of the different Editions of the Works of John Ruskin," which will include a bibliographical account of the editions of "Modern Painters."

"A History of English Bookselling," by Mr. W. Roberts is announced by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. Will this prove to be the "good history of booksellers" for which Carlyle was anxious?

The "Histoire des Sources du Droit canonique, par Adolphe Tardif" (Paris: A. Picard, 1887, 8vo, pp. iii, 409), and "Introduction au Droit de Gens, par F. de Holtzendorff et A. Rivier" (Hamburg: Verlagsanstalt, 1888, la. 8vo, pp. iv, 524), contain much useful bibliographical information.

The Comm. A. Ademollo has reprinted from the *Gazzetta musicale di Milano* his essay on the "Bibliographia della cronistoria teatrale Italiana" (Milano, 1888, 16mo, pp. 12).

The third volume has been published of the "Inventario dei Manoscritti Italiani delle Biblioteche di Francia." (Roma, 1888. 8vo, pp. viii, 731.) Drawn up by Gius. Mazzatinti, and published by the Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione.

A subject-index to what is known as the Poggendorff series of the "Annalen der Physik und Chemie" (1824-77) has just been published. It is compiled by Fr. Strobel (Leipzig: J. A. Barth, 1888, 8vo, pp. viii, 719.) An index of names is in course of preparation, as well as a "Namen und Sachregister" to the continuation (1877-88).

Some numbers have appeared, at Rio de Janeiro, of a *Bibliographia Brasileira*, to be continued as a monthly publishers' circular of Brazilian literature.

Pseudonyms.

"G. M. Hutton," author of "One that Wins," and "Whom Nature Leadeth," is Mrs. Mona Caird.

"Maori" is the Hon. James Inglis.

"Æona" is Mrs. Hanson.

Library Notes and News.

BARKING, ESSX.—The ratepayers of Barking have adopted the Libraries Acts by 921 votes to 241.

BRIGHTON.—A donation of £1000 has been received towards the Free Lending Library which is being formed here.

BUXTON.—It is expected that the Prince of Wales will open the new Municipal Offices, including the Free Library.

CHESTER.—Mr. Gladstone has been paying "an agreeable visit" to the Chester Free Library, and by way of "giving some token of interest in the institution" has transmitted to it a large parcel of books. An excellent example, surely.

CROYDON.—It is worth remembering in connection with the adoption of the Acts here that in 1886 only 1600 votes were recorded, against 2107 in 1887. The recent vote was taken by voting papers, while on the previous occasions the voters were compelled to attend at a central polling place. Mr. J. S. Wright, of Croydon, has promised a site free of charge.

DARLASTON.—An effort is being made to liquidate by donations a debt of £1500 on the Free Library, in order that the whole of the *id.* rate may be utilised for current purposes.

DENTON AND HAUGHTON.—The Local Board have taken counsel's opinion with regard to the levying of the penny rate and the support of the Free Library (the Act having been adopted at a ratepayer's meeting held last year), and have come to the conclusion that they have full power to levy such rate if they think fit, and, not having levied the rate for the past year, they have now decided to set aside a sum, equal to that which would have been raised had the rate been in operation for the present year, out of the funds in hand from the general district rate.

EDINBURGH.—The Committee of the Public Free Library have had the advice of Sir William Thomson as to the proposed electric lighting of the library, and have resolved to adopt a combined system of arc and incandescent lights. A grant of £1500 from the Edinburgh Exhibition Surplus has been made to the Free Library, and the money will be expended in books of a technical character.

GLASGOW.—Mr. T. Mason, upon his retirement from the position of librarian, was, on Thursday, December 6th, presented by the subscribers with a purse of 100 sovereigns and "Quaint bits of Old Glasgow." Sir Michael Connal presided. There was a large attendance.

GUERNSEY.—Extensions in the Guille-Allès Library buildings have recently been effected, and a description of them is given in the *Guernsey Advertiser* of November 24th. The library was founded in January, 1882, by Thomas Guille and Frederick M. Allès, who made their fortunes in New York.

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HINCKLEY, LEICESTER.—Messrs. Atkins have erected a Free Library here as a memorial to their brother Arthur, the land being purchased by local residents. Mr. Stephen Malin has bequeathed £500 for the purchase of books. The Reading Room is now in operation and is highly appreciated by the working classes.

HORWICH, LANCASHIRE.—During the first hundred nights of its existence, 75 vols. per day have been issued from the Public Hall Library. The new Mechanics' Institution Library, of 1,800 vols., was opened on December 1.

HULL.—Mr. James Reckitt has undertaken to provide a Free Library for East Hull. The managers are arranging for a suitable building, and have advertised for a librarian and a library.

INVERNESS.—Mr. Donaldson, described as a "fitter, at the Highland Railway Locomotive Works," has been appointed librarian of the Inverness Free Library at the salary of £10 a year (!), with house, coals and gas. It was found that the salary of £80 paid to the former librarian could not be continued. The library is now open only from 1 to 2 and from 6 to 8 o'clock in the evening.

LEEDS.—At the meeting of the Leeds Town Council, on Nov. 9, the question arose as to whether there should be two committees, one to deal with the Library, and the other to deal specially with the Fine Art Gallery, this latter committee to include the gentlemen, not members of the Council, whose knowledge of art matters fitted them to sit on the committee.—The Town Clerk said there was no case on the point as to whether two committees could be appointed, but after carefully considering the matter, he thought the Council would be justified in appointing two committees.—Ald. Lupton agreed with this course, but Ald. Boothroyd suggested that there should be only one committee, and a sub-committee to deal with the Fine Art Gallery be elected from that.—Mr. Harvey pointed out that if the outside gentlemen who were to be admitted had to sit on a sub-committee, their work would be liable to supervision and possible interference.—After a long discussion the proposition to nominate two distinct committees was negated by 30 votes to 28.

LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool City Council has accepted a tender for the erection of a new branch Library at Kensington, Liverpool, for the sum of £2,944.

LONDON.—H.R.H. the Princess Christian opened the library, recently added to the Royal Female School of Art, Queen's Square, W., on December 7th.

LONDON : BATTERSEA.—A contract has been entered into for the erection of the Central Library, on Lavender Hill, near Clapham Junction, for the sum of £5,600. The plans (by Mr. E. W. Mountford), appeared in the *Builder* of Dec. 8th, together with an exterior view of the new building, and an interesting critical article on the whole of the designs in the recent competition appeared in the same journal on the 10th of November. The plans for the second library, drawn by Mr. Henry Branch, have been approved, and the erection of that building will also be shortly commenced, on a large site which has been secured adjoining the Albert Palace and Battersea Park.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—In addition to a gift of £350 for the purchase of technical books, Earl Cadogan has generously given the freehold of a large central site in Chelsea for the new Library building and the proposed S.W. Polytechnic Institute, and they will be erected side by side. Sir Charles W. Dilke, who is one of the Commissioners, has increased his gift for the purchase of books to £500, a portion of which sum will be devoted to the outlying branch in Kensal Town.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—The temporary premises of the Free Library were opened on Nov. 20. Gifts have been received from Mr. R. M. Holborn of £300 in cash and £500 worth of books; and from Captain Penton, M.P., of £300 in cash and the same amount in books. The Skinners' Company have presented a central site, worth over £3,000, on which to erect the free library.

LONDON: FULHAM.—At the time of going to press with the Catalogue of the Free Public Library, there were 4,700 vols. in the Lending Library and 2,120 in the Reference Library. The Catalogue is given away: the cost of printing having been covered by advertisements.

LONDON: HORNSEY.—The School Board has decided to establish a free lending library; apparently for the use of children who have left school, as well as for those still under control of the Board.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—On Dec. 1, the South Lambeth Free Library, South Lambeth Road, the second of a series of Free Libraries for Lambeth was publicly opened by Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P. The library is the gift of Mr. Henry Tate, who was to have performed the opening ceremony, but who was prevented from attending through illness. Mr. Tate has offered to subscribe £5,000 towards the £10,000 required for the erection of a Library at Brixton, providing the remainder is subscribed by the 31st of March next. This will bring his total contribution up to £18,000.

LONDON: PEOPLE'S PALACE.—The Library has been transferred from Queen's Hall to the permanent building in Mile End. The library now contains about 8,000 vols.

LONDON: ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.—Mr. Thomas Mason, librarian of Stirling's Library, Glasgow, has been appointed librarian of the new Free Library.

MANCHESTER.—A clerk recently stole two books from the Rochdale Road branch of the Manchester Free Libraries. He was fined £5, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

MANCHESTER: FREE LIBRARIES.—Free lectures are again being delivered here. Mr. Axon opened the course on Nov. 6, by speaking on "The Story of Manchester." The other lecturers on the list are Mr. J. A. Newbold, Professor W. Boyd Dawkins, Mr. Eli Sowerbutts, Professor A. S. Wilkins, and Mr. Charles Rowley.

MANCHESTER: Y. M. C. A.—The library of this institution contains about 4000 volumes, and with a view of increasing the number of books a novel idea, in the shape of a "book reception," was carried out on Nov. 26. A concert was given on that evening, admission being gained by the gift of one or more books; and over 120 volumes were in this way added to the library.

NANTWICH.—On December 6, Mr. Brunner, M.P., opened a Free Library, which the inhabitants have erected in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee. Captain Cotton, M.P., Mr. McLaren, M.P., and Mr. Tolle-mache, M.P., took part in the proceedings.

NELSON, LANCASHIRE.—An agitation for a Free Library is on foot at this place.

NEWPORT, MON.—The late Mr. C. O. S. Morgan, F.R.S., has left £200 "to the Newport Corporation for the support of a Free Library or a School of Arts and Science."

NEWTON HEATH, NEAR MANCHESTER.—The Local Board have adopted the designs of Mr. Lawrence Booth of Manchester, for new public buildings,—including provision for a free library.

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OLDBURY.—The Committee appointed to consider the advisability of providing temporary free Reading Rooms until a permanent Free Library can be established for Oldbury, has reported against the proposal. There is a feeling in favour of providing the temporary accommodation by voluntary subscriptions.

OPENSHAW, NEAR MANCHESTER.—The executors of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth have promised to provide a Free Library for this place.

POOLE.—The Old Poole Library building was sold on 29th Nov., and the trustees have announced their intention to hand over the proceeds to the Corporation, to be devoted to the building of a museum in connection with the Free Library.

STALYBRIDGE.—Mr. T. H. Sidebottom, M.P., has given £500 to the fund for establishing a Free Library here.

WICK.—The Free Library was opened on Nov. 16, the Act having been adopted unanimously by the ratepayers early last year. It starts with nearly 4000 volumes.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Cardiff Free Library, Museum and Science and Art Schools. Twenty-sixth Annual Report, 1888-7 [*sic*.]

The limited accommodation afforded has been severely felt, and, to some extent, has checked the progress of the institution. The Lending Library contains 14,932 vols., against 13,441 in 1887; and the Reference Library 13,441 vols., against 11,449 vols. The issues from the Lending Library were 126,618 vols., being an increase of 1,190 vols. on those recorded for 1886-7; and from the Reference Library 13,441 against 11,449 in the previous twelve months. There were 2,884 borrowers' tickets issued, which remain in force for two years; 2,598 vols. were added to stock during the year reported upon. A new catalogue is in hand. The books for the blind now number 305 vols., of which 274 are in the Moon characters. A catalogue of these will be issued. The Local and Welsh Collections number 1,250 vols. The expenditure for the library amounted to £1,236.

Cardiff Free Library, Museum and Science and Art Schools. Catalogue of Music, and Works relating to Music, in the Lending Library. Compiled by John Ballinger, Chief Librarian. Price Twopence. . . . 1888. Cr. 8vo, pp. 8.

This catalogue contains the titles of about three hundred works classified under either the names of authors or composers. The works are well chosen, and the catalogue carefully compiled and neatly printed.

Colchester. A Catalogue of the Harsnett Library, in which are included a few books presented to the town by various donors since 1631, compiled with an introduction by Gordon Goodwin. London: R. Amer, 1888. Large 8vo, pp. xxxiv, 170, with plate of a brass of Abp. Harsnett in Chigwell Church, Essex (250 copies privately printed).

Samuel Harsnett (1561-1631), Archbishop of York, bequeathed his library to "the bayliffes and incorporacon of the Towne of Colchester," who, on 30th July, 1635, appointed as librarian, at 40s. per annum, William Hall, a barber. A few books were subsequently added by other

benefactors. The collection consists chiefly of theological literature of the 16th century, with a sprinkling of incunabula. When the Colchester Town Council decided, a couple of years ago, to have the library catalogued, they fortunately secured the services of a competent bibliographer. Mr. Goodwin's volume is an excellent specimen of thorough workmanship. The titles are given fully, with a few notes.

Derby. Seventeenth Annual Report of the Committee of the Derby Free Library and Museum; and Sixth Annual Report of the Art Gallery Committee. pp. 31.

The Committee report "that the institution was never in a better condition, or more highly appreciated than at the present time." The Lending and Reference Libraries have a stock of 23,022 vols. The issues were 130,314 vols.—a trifling decrease on those of the previous year. But this is fairly accounted for by the gradual withdrawal of three volume novels." Books of Music are largely borrowed. The News Rooms "are more fully attended, than ever." Good order is observed. About 5,500 borrowers' tickets are in force. The rate last year realized £1,468.

Middlesbrough. Annual Report of the Middlesbrough Free Library Committee. pp. 8.

The Library contains 14,429 vols., of which number 455 were added during the year. The circulation was 86,079 vols., against 74,503 during the previous year. There were 3,437 borrowers. The funds are inadequate to carry on the work efficiently—the rent being a heavy one. The average percentage of fiction reading for seventeen years is 62·61, whilst that for last year was only 53·80. The juvenile section has gone up from the seventeen years' percentage of 9 to 21·68.

Reading Free Public Library. [.] Catalogue of the Reference Library. [.] including the Reading and Berkshire Local Collection [of books.] *** Reading [.] . . . 1888, 8vo, pp. i-viii, 1-83.

Mr. Greenhough has compiled a classifier's catalogue, with indices, of the reference library under his care.

Swansea. Fourteenth Annual Report of the Public Library and Gallery of Art Committee, 1887-8, pp. 21.

The cloud which hung over this institution has passed away. The cost of the new building was a burden on the annual revenue, and seriously crippled the work—so much so that the Art Gallery had to be closed. The Town Council have assumed the financial responsibilities consequent upon the erection of the building. The Art Gallery has been opened, two branches have been made efficient. The starving of the library caused a falling off in the number of borrowers. The Reference Library issues increased from 10,067 vols. to 13,670, owing to the printing of a Catalogue. The magazine and newspaper lists have undergone revision. The two Lending Libraries comprise 7,457 vols.; and the Reference Library stock numbers 20,352 vols. The issues were 52,748 and 105,909 vols. respectively,—being a daily average of 520. The expenditure for the year was £1,963.

Tonbridge Free Library. Sixth Annual Report, 1887-88, pp. 12.

During the year there were 720 borrowers. The Library contains 5,499 vols. The year's issues were 17,603 vols. The Reading and News Rooms are frequently crowded. The Rate realized £145.

Wandsworth Public Library. Catalogue Key to the Indicator.

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history, geography, voyages and travels, F (2,060 vols.) fiction, and J (580 vols.) juvenile literature. The works are arranged in numerical order, with the author's name or pseudonym first. Pseudonyms are printed in italics.

Welshpool. The 1st Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library and Museum, Oct. 1888, pp. 12.

The Committee appointed Mr. C. Lawrence (late Sergeant of the Army Hospital Corps) as Librarian and Caretaker at a salary of £25 (!) and a house. The Library was opened with 4,974 vols. on June 1. "The classifying and cataloguing this large number of books, and the passing of the Catalogue through the press, became a task of great labour, and beyond the power of the librarian. This involved the employment of volunteer labour." The average issues exceed 1000 vols. per month; 433 readers' tickets have been issued.

Westminster. Thirtieth Annual Report . . of the Commissioners of the Free Public Libraries, 1886-87, pp. 23.

This report contains a *résumé* of the thirty years' work of the libraries. The Central and Branch Libraries now contain 19,560 vols. The daily average attendance in the Reading Rooms was about 1,500 and 231 respectively. During the nine months reported upon, 112,558 vols. were issued, being a daily average issue of 496 vols. The character of the reading is improving. The library rate realized £1,600; and the expenditure was £2,030. Mr. H. E. Poole is Librarian and Secretary.

Wolverhampton. Nineteenth Annual Report of the Wolverhampton Free Library Committee.

The Reading Room was largely attended. The Lending Library issues amounted to 62,901 vols.; and those in the Reference Library to 7,513 vols. The Specifications of Patents are better appreciated than formerly. The funds are insufficient to provide the amount of modern literature which is required. The year's income for the support of the libraries and reading rooms was £1,197.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

A memoir of Henry Bradshaw, fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and University Librarian. By G. W. Prothero. London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1888. 8vo., pp. vii, 447.

Full of interest and instruction for bibliographers, if not for librarians. We hope to have in the next number of *The Library*, an extended notice of the life of one who was perhaps the most noteworthy member of the Library Association. What is "the very rare book, the Virginian or Massachusetts Bible, a large folio in two volumes, printed in Charles II's reign" p. 328? Is it a reference to Eliot's well-known "Indian Bible," 1663, small quarto?

Poole's Index to Periodical Literature. The first Supplement from January 1, 1882, to January 1, 1887. By W. F. Poole, LL.D. and W. I. Fletcher, A.M., with the coöperation of the American Library Association. London: Trübner, 1888. 1a. 8vo. pp. xiii. 483.

Dr. Poole's invaluable index to periodicals is too well-known to require description or approval. The workmanship of the present volume is even an improvement upon its predecessor.

Juvenile Literatur [*sic*] as it is. By Edward Salmon. London : Drane, 1888. cr. 8vo, pp. 243.

A useful guide to those forming a juvenile department in a free library. A list of recommended books, with prices, &c., might be added with advantage to a second edition.

Bibliographical Notes on the English Translation of Polydore Vergil's work, "De Inventoribus rerum." Communicated to the Society of Antiquaries. By Professor John Ferguson, M.A., LL.D., Westminster : Nichols, 1888, 4to, pp. 35.

This is a reprint from vol. li, of *The Archaeologia*, and is an exhaustive piece of work, by a member of the Association. The extraordinary mistakes that have crept into some of the most trusted authorities, have been fully cleared up.

Some observations on the Bodleian classed catalogue. By Henry W. Chandler. Oxford : B. H. Blackwell, 1888. 8vo, pp. 31.

To the question : "Can a real and useful classed catalogue of all the printed books in the Bodleian Library be constructed?" Mr. Chandler, who is one of the curators, states that in his opinion, "With Panizzi and others we may answer without the slightest hesitation that it cannot; it is totally impossible (p. 29.)." The tendency of the argument, however, is not to show that classification is impossible, but merely that it is difficult.

L'art de la reliure en France aux derniers siècles. Par Edouard Fournier. Paris : E. Dentu, 1888. sm. 8vo, pp. 268.

An opportune little volume.

Jahresberichte der Geschichtswissenschaft im Auftrage der Historischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin herausgegeben von J. Jastrow. VIII Jahrgang, 1885. Berlin, R. Gaertner's Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1889. 8vo, pp. xv., 195, 343, 399.

This series is one of the most useful of the many annual publications of the same kind.

I codici veneti delle Biblioteche di Parigi : ricerche per Attilio Sarfatti. Roma, 1888. 8vo, pp. xi., 198.

Contains account of the Venetian MSS. of the Bibliothèques Nationale, Arsenal, Ste. Gèneviève & Mazarine.

Bibliografia della Musica. Catalogo della Biblioteca del Liceo Musicale di Bologna compilato ed illustrato dal Prof. Cav. Gaetano Gaspari, e dal Prof. Fed. Parisini. Bologna : Romagnoli dall'Acqua, 1883. Vol. i, Disp. 1. La. 8vo.

Now coming out in parts, at the expense of the Municipality of Bologna. The titles are full, systematically arranged, with excellent notes.

I codici musicali contariniani del sec. XVII nella R. Biblioteca di S. Marco in Venezia illustrati da Taddeo Wiel. Venezia : F. Ongania, 1888. 8vo, pp. xxx, 121.

An important contribution to the history of Italian music. Of the 120 MSS. described, 112 are theatrical pieces.

Among recent bibliographies of the life and writings of individuals may be mentioned: "Les deux Champollions," by A. Champollion-Figeac (Grenoble, 1888, 8vo.); "Estienne de La Boétie," by P. Bonnefon (Bordeaux, 1888, 4°, pp. 166); "Christoph Weissenborn," by M. Geyer (Altenburg, 1888, 4°, 8 pp.); "Julius Glaser" (Wien, 1888, la. 8vo, pp. 104); "Dr. Asa Gray" (*American Journal of Science*, Sept. 1888); "Karl Theodor Kriebitzsch," by P. Kriebitzsch (Halberstadt, 1888, 4°, 12 pp.); "Leo XII," by F. Nizet (Bruxelles, 1888, 8vo, 9 pp.); "Marguerite de Surville," by l'Abbe de *** (Paris, 1888, 8vo, pp. 31); "Joseph Tastu," by A. Pagès (Montpellier, 1888, 8vo, pp. 44).

Correspondence.

THE LIBRARY OF THE PEOPLE'S PALACE: AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of 'The Library.'

THE building designed for this library has been completed and formally opened, and the books have been transferred to their permanent home. Those readers of the *Library* who will take the trouble to journey as far, will, I think, be greatly pleased with the building itself, as well as with the quiet and orderly crowd which fills it all day long, Sundays included.

There are now about 8,000 volumes, but the Library could very well find room for 200,000. Though we do not hope to fill all the shelves for many years to come, we look forward confidently to making, before long, a collection complete for ordinary students in every branch of learning as well as a library of recreative literature for those—naturally the majority of our readers—who come in the evening for a comfortable place where they may sit in warmth and light over a pleasant book. It is the only place where they can find this happiness. And it is becoming more widely known and better appreciated every day, so that we may expect during the winter that the library will be crowded every evening by the working men of the East End.

Our librarian, Miss Constance Black, is engaged upon a classified list of books most urgently wanted in the various branches. Meanwhile will any who are kindly disposed towards the Palace note that in history of all kinds—whether of nations, of literature, of art, of biography, or of science—we cannot possibly have enough; that in general literature and *belles-lettres* duplicates are always welcome; that in foreign literature—French, German, Italian, &c.—there are hardly any books; that in the branch of classical literature we have literally nothing; and that we are very deficient in educational books, and in grammars, dictionaries, and the like? As for novels of the better class, we can hardly have too many; and we can find room for any number of books of travel and adventure. Books on political economy and the social questions of the day are much asked for; and we are anxious to make the technical text-books complete.

We have a small lending library for the boys of the school. It is

designed to fit up one of the "social rooms" as a reading-room for the "lady members," and in time, when the library is big enough, it is hoped to make it a lending library to the general public.

Seeing, therefore, the omnivorous condition of our library, we earnestly beg the readers of the *Library* to send us of their superfluities, not pausing to consider whether this book or that is likely to be suitable, but sending everything, and leaving to the librarians the task of deciding whether a proffered book may be accepted or consigned to the rubbish heap.

WALTER BESANT.

Library Association Record.

The December Monthly Meeting was held in the Library of Gray's Inn on Monday, December 10th. The Worshipful Chancellor Christie, Vice-President, in the chair.

Professor Lund, F.R.C.S. of Victoria University, and Mr. William Durie, of Gray's Inn, who had both been proposed at last Monthly Meeting were elected members of the Association.

The following Papers were read :

- I. "An Account of Proposals made nearly Two Centuries Ago to found Public Libraries," by Mr. Wm. Blades.
- II. "American Books with English Title-pages," by Mr. Joseph Gilbert.

Both papers lead to interesting discussions, and after votes of thanks to the authors, the meeting adjourned.

A Meeting of the Council was held in the Library of Gray's Inn on Monday, December 10th. The Worshipful Chancellor Christie, Vice-President, in the chair.

In accordance with the powers conferred upon them by the General Meeting at Glasgow, the Council proceeded to the election of a President for the ensuing year, and Chancellor Christie was unanimously elected.

The arrangements that had been made for the publication of *The Library*, in succession to *The Library Chronicle*, were reported, and approved, and *The Library* was accepted as the Organ of the Association.

It was resolved that in future the MONTHLY MEETINGS shall be held on the SECOND MONDAY of the month.

The next MONTHLY MEETING will be held on MONDAY, 14TH JANUARY, at 7.30 p.m., in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, by the kind invitation of the Council of the College. Mr. J. Blake Bailey, the librarian, will read a paper on the history of the College Library.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher. 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Printed for the Publisher, by J. DANY & SONS, at the DEYDEN PRESS, 137, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The Library.

Henry Bradshaw.¹

MR. Prothero's memoir of the late University Librarian of Cambridge is a book which it will seem almost officious to recommend, or even to describe, to the readers of this magazine. It is probably in their hands already, and they will study it as a matter of course. We will simply say for ourselves that we have read it with the greatest pleasure, and thank the author sincerely for his discreet performance of a difficult task.

The interest of the book will naturally be greatest for students of Chaucer, of Celtic antiquities, of ecclesiastical history, for those who are technically concerned with some phase or phases of the librarian's work, and for the managers of libraries. But in none of these matters, we conceive, does the main purport lie; nor can the present writer pretend to speak of them as a member of the circle. Mr. Prothero's true subject is the character of the man. No practitioner in letters, or practitioner in life, can come away unimproved from the picture which the biographer presents; and this the more that it is no ideal or embellished portrait. Neither is it what is sometimes called by way of compliment an "unsparing" picture, that is, one in which we can see the artist's effort to put in the dark as well as the light. Mr. Prothero's drawing, whether natural or studied, is perfectly simple; and we speak without affectation in saying that it is done, to our mind, just as the normal biography ought to be.

What Henry Bradshaw was, how wide was his professional learning, with what difficulty, and in the end to how regrettably small an extent, that learning was made permanently available in the way of publication, and on the other hand with what noble generosity the whole man, his talents, accomplishments, and means, were given to the service of study and students—this outline, known in part to

¹ *A Memoir of Henry Bradshaw, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and University Librarian*, by G. W. Prothero, Fellow and Tutor of King's College, Cambridge. 8vo. London: Paul, Trench & Co., 1888.

many, is what Mr. Prothero had to fill up. As to the learning, it would not be easy to find more remarkable examples of minute knowledge well applied than are frequently exhibited in these pages. Several are telling enough to have found their way already into popular circulation. But take, as a choice instance, the account of what Bradshaw reaped from the short possession of a book which fell into his hands on its way back from the Caxton Celebration in 1877, a copy of the *Mirror of the World*. The boards of the binding were lined with a fragment of printed matter, which Bradshaw soaked off and examined. It proved to be a portion of another unique Caxton, the *Fifteen Oes*, and is the subject, as some will know, of one of Bradshaw's published *Memoranda*. We pass over many deductions to which his experience made the fragment serve, and come to this truly delightful bit of workmanship. "On both sides of the fragment Bradshaw found what is called a 'set off,' that is, the mark of printer's ink from the wet pages of some other book. These were very difficult to make out, for the letters were of course reversed, and they were also much blurred. In his diary, he remarks, 'by the aid of a looking glass, my lamp, and my new magnifying glass, I can make out one or two words, as *misericórdia*.' He at once recognized the type and, from these and other indications, arrived at the conclusion that the fragment had come in contact with a waste leaf of the octavo Primer, 'at present only known from the fragment found by Mr. Maskell in the binding of a book, and given by him to the British Museum in 1858.' Hence it may be inferred that the Primer in question, and the book to which the fragment belongs, were passing through the press about the same time"—a conclusion which experts were waiting to prove.

Nor was it only within the plots of study which he specially cultivated that Bradshaw had this sureness and rapidity. He seems not only to have known but to have had at command everything that was likely to concern his business. The following incident, one of many, though less important in the result, is perhaps even more surprising than his management of the Caxton. Once, on his way from Marseilles, he turned aside to Grenoble to see a Vaudois Manuscript of the New Testament. From the circumstances it would seem that the visit cannot have been long premeditated. "The librarian was away; in his absence no one could get in. Bradshaw begged for admittance, but the *concierge*, an old woman, was obdurate. 'I only want to see one book' he said, 'and I have come all the way from England on purpose.' 'But if I let you in, you will never find the book.' 'Oh yes, I should, *I know where it is*.' This persistence, with the aid of a ten-franc piece, was too much for the old lady, and she fetched the

keys. He knew the class-mark of the book and, once in the library, a moment's glance at the arrangement of the shelves showed him the geography. *He went straight to the place*, took out the book, made a few notes, and went his way."

Side by side with such proofs of efficient knowledge are of course only too many references to the delay and difficulty in decision, which kept so much of Bradshaw's acquisitions from the due result. There is one topic of this class upon which we cannot but hope that the last word is not yet said. For years Bradshaw seems to have been engaged from time to time in puzzling out the *Hisperica Famina*, a most extraordinary poem by an Irishman of the ninth or tenth century in strange Latin mixed with words of Celtic. What a curious monument it is, and what a peculiar state of literature it reveals, even the ordinary reader sees from the facts, that, on the one hand, the poet was ambitious enough to attempt classical metres barely known to us now by specimens, and that, on the other hand, his conception of quantity offered no hindrance to a hexameter like this:

Flammivoro polum sectat corusco supernum.

In this and other ways the piece is of much interest, and Bradshaw, probably alone, possessed the means of clearing it up. It was so little understood when he took it in hand, that it was and remains actually printed as prose. He wanted to print it with a commentary, but "unfortunately never carried out this project." But from various indications it would seem that not only a copy of it arranged by Bradshaw once existed (this is certain), but that something like a full account was actually written. We must still hope that it may come to light. Mr. Prothero has been able to recover very little.

Much of Bradshaw's conclusions upon Chaucer is irrevocably lost, except—a large exception, certainly—so far as by oral communications and letters they supplied aid and stimulus to those who, in the recent fertile years, have worked on the subject. Still it is a great loss that we have missed the often and long projected edition. He had, as the biographer says and proves, not only the erudition but the sympathetic imagination needed by a good expositor. We will quote one little instance. Chaucer, in his version of *Troilus and Cressida* cites in one place the authority of a certain "Lollius." Who this classical author was, why Chaucer should care to cite him, and how he came afterwards to disappear so completely, are questions which have caused much perplexity. Bradshaw seems to have been first with the suggestion, simple enough when made, but just of that kind which mere erudition will never make, that "myn

auctour Lollius" was never more than a name, that Chaucer had a fancy just at this point to give his remarks a learned air, and bethought himself that the less known the author, the more the learning. To this pleasant explanation we will venture to contribute what may, perhaps, confirm it. It may be asked, what put the name Lollius into Chaucer's head, and this question ought, upon Bradshaw's view, to have an answer. Can it be found? Possibly. The only Lollius whom Chaucer and his readers are likely to have known, indeed the only Lollius who has ever had much notoriety, is the "Lollius" of Horace, the Governor of Augustus's grandchildren. Now Chaucer, when he invented this reference to Lollius as his "author," was writing upon a tale from the Trojan War. Did there not float across his mind, as he paused for a name, a passing remembrance of his Horace? *Trojani belli scriptorem, maxime Lolli* runs the first line of a familiar epistle. Neither we nor Chaucer should cite this seriously to prove the existence of Lollius as a writer upon the war of Troy; but it is quite enough to create the sort of association likely to act in the circumstances supposed by Bradshaw. If it was so, it was a whimsical freak of the brain.

However we must not be drawn from our proper theme. Besides the students of Chaucer and other subjects of Bradshaw's special work, another large class who will find their account in Mr. Prothero's book are those interested in Cambridge and the Cambridge men of the last five and thirty years. Here it becomes impossible to deal by way of sample, and we must ask to be trusted on parole. Not that there are not producible anecdotes. Already at Eton, Bradshaw, as may be supposed, had a marked character. "He was one day carrying off from the School Library to his room two or three massive folios, when he was hailed from a window above with the question 'Hullo Bradshaw! Whose books have you got there?' 'Yours' was the terse reply, for the books, being library books, belonged to the questioner and the questioned alike." This story has already gone about, but it is worth giving again. Later on we find others, and also some (not nearly enough) of those sober and thoughtful sayings which many must wish they had taken down as they were spoken. Here is one which Bradshaw put into a letter himself: "It requires much more drilling than I have ever enjoyed to be able to profit by a miscellaneous collection of pictures. It is a part of a gentleman's education which ought not to be neglected; but it is waste of time trying to pick up ignorant enjoyment from stray pictures." Or again: "The soundest way of learning is teaching, provided only you enjoy the work." Not very

much, perhaps, but just things that are neglected and are worth saying and thinking about and acting on.

But here we are coming to the personal aspect of Bradshaw, which is indeed, as already said, the main aspect and the substance of his life. We are coming to this, and we have nearly filled our space, and we do not regret it. For it is just this which cannot be taken out of Mr. Prothero's book, but must be found in it. The impression does not lie in the account of one particular friendship, or in this other piece of literary service, or in that other liberal gift, however striking the single traits may be. A man is not after all a bundle of traits: and the author, if we are not mistaken, has presented a most loveable and interesting man. Those who knew the subject of the memoir will need no assurance; those (with whom the reviewer is obliged to class himself) who knew him scarcely or not at all, may be assured that they will be glad to have repaired, so far as possible, their loss.

We have said little of Bradshaw the man, and nothing yet of Bradshaw the librarian. It is not needed. To those whose occupation will draw them to study this side of his work, it would be an impertinence to say anything. They must necessarily know better how to use Mr. Prothero's book than we can possibly tell them.

We will take leave to conclude with a simple, perhaps a silly story, which is not in the book, but may possibly show as well as another why many hundreds of people feel a singular tenderness for the memory of Bradshaw. A certain society of young Cambridge men had occasion to give a dinner to some visitors. The party was large; none of the society possessed a sufficient room for the purpose, and for certain reasons of state a hired room was inexpedient. The difficulty somehow came, as many difficulties did, to the knowledge of the University Librarian, who thereupon sorted his papers, cleared his table, his sofa, and all in his principal room, handed over the whole set for the evening to the youthful entertainers, and sat out himself until long past midnight.

Lord Burghley's Correspondence at Hatfield House.

THANKS to the energies of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the mass of material for the history of Elizabethan England, hidden away amongst the Cecil papers at Hatfield House, is gradually being brought to light. The Marquis of Salisbury, too, is entitled to the gratitude of the historical student for the assistance which he gives in making accessible the correspondence and papers of his illustrious ancestor, Lord Burghley. The Calendar, which the Commission has just issued to the Cecil Manuscripts, covers the period from 1573 to 1582, and follows one, published a few years back, which dealt with the earlier part of Elizabeth's reign, and included such earlier records as are preserved at Hatfield.

The present volume is in no way inferior to the last in historic or social interest. When it opens we find Elizabeth's secretary busy, in reference to the trial of the Duke of Norfolk for his complicity with the rebels of the north. Of his guilt there was no doubt, but so strong was his position as chief of the nobility of England, and as presumed head of the English Roman Catholic party, that Burghley hesitated to arrest him, till those were secured who could give evidence that would place his complicity beyond doubt. The Duke himself seems to have been fully conscious of his position, and to have sheltered behind it. His final submission is as abject as his previous conduct had been haughty and self-reliant. He refers to himself as the Queen's "sorrowful and dead servant, Tho: Howard," and begs Burghley to be guardian to his "poor orphans." He is grateful when he hears the Queen will show some favour towards these "poore brates." In his final confession he asserts he has ever been a Protestant, though his conduct may have given a just suspicion that he was "a favourer of Papists."

We hear, too, a good deal about some other conspiracies against the Queen and government—notably one revealed to Elizabeth in 1577 by Baptista de Trento, who was "induced to divulge his secret in consequence of having listened to a sermon on Dives and Lazarus, in which were eloquently described the future torments of the wicked." The author of the conspiracy was the Earl of Leicester. The most interesting part of the story is that which describes Leicester's ambition to be King of England, and the steps he took to make such an event possible. Amy Robsart was slain by his

command by some of his satellites, who pretended she had "died suddenly;" but the local authorities deemed her death suspicious, and when she was exhumed they saw "there was no stain of blood upon her, and she was beautiful both in face and person," but on stripping the covering from her head, "they found in it five nails, six inches long, daubed with pitch." Had Leicester used poison as a means of ridding himself of her, he knew that "small red spots, both in her face and person," would have appeared and attracted suspicion.

Elizabeth's policy in Ireland, as illustrated in the Cecil papers, will be considered with peculiar interest at the present time. We have Burghley's memorandum relating to the number and cost of the Irish garrisons under successive holders of the office of Lord deputy. In 1558 there were but 500 soldiers in Ireland. In 1574 the garrison consisted of 2,362 men, at a monthly cost of more than £1 a man. Over the whole island matters were in a most unsettled state; tales of strife and bloodshed are told from every part; but the chief seat of disorder was Munster, whither the Earl of Ormonde had gone as Lord-General. He does not seem to have worked entirely in accord with the Lord Deputy. "The little service done in Munster," says the latter, "I cannot altogether excuse;" and then, in words painfully suggestive, he continues:—"For my part, without it be of some importance, I take no delight to advertize of every common person's head that is taken off, otherwise I could have certified of a hundred or two of their lives ended, since my coming into these parts." In 1581 the Queen herself expressed strong dissatisfaction at the little work done in Munster, and the money spent there. Ormonde, however, puts down his ill success to "lack of victuals, money, and munitions of war." In one of his letters to Burghley, the Lord Deputy warns him that the soldiers sent out to Ireland are badly chosen, and begs for fresh men if the place is to be maintained in a better state. The peril, he considers, lies mostly in foreign raids from the north, and the disquiet and danger will grow daily more and more unless speedily looked to. The rebels love the inland parts of Ireland, and our efforts should be to drive them to the coast. He does not much believe in the methods adopted to obtain the pacification of the rebels, "because the Irish are so addicted to treachery and breach of fidelity" that they respect "neither affinity nor duty." Of one of the local chieftains he says:—"Tulough Lennough is bound only by his oath, which is in his religion to be dispensed withal by any of his Romish priests, as soon as he spieth an opportunity to break [it] for advantage."

But the difficulties in Ireland were not wholly due to the manner in which the government was carried on over there. The dissensions amongst the members of the Council in England, had a good deal to do with it; their irresolution is touched upon—in words which may well be marked by politicians of to-day—by a writer in 1581, who was evidently admitted to the secrets of the Council chamber. Speaking of Ireland, he says:—"Our division here at home in Council about the causes of that country, some inclining to reformation, others to a toleration of that nation to enjoy their Irish customs, and to serve to no other purpose, but to consume the treasure of England, is the principal and chief cause why matters go no better there." The Lord Deputy was heartily sick of his office before he resigned it, but he waited on whilst he thought his presence was needed. As we have seen he was not one to encourage indiscriminate decapitation of Irish rebels, though he was very thankful when an accident took from the world some specially tiresome one, thus on news reaching him that "Rossy McLaghyn" had been killed in jumping from his prison window, the Lord Deputy piously exclaimed *Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine in pace!*—but he did not leave Ireland for some years after.

Turning now to Elizabeth's domestic affairs, we find in the Cecil correspondence, materials for a history of her famous matrimonial negotiations with the two Anjou Princes, such as has never before been presented to the student, including as it does a lengthy correspondence between the Queen and Francis of Anjou and the successive envoys—notably Simier—sent to England to arrange the match. About the negotiations with respect to the elder of the two brothers, who aspired to Elizabeth's hand—Henry of Anjou, we do not find so much amongst the documents at Hatfield. The Huguenot party in France, urged the Queen to overlook the disparity of age between herself and Henry—he was 20, she 37—and marriage articles were drawn up and brought to England in April, 1571. Even Burghley, though realizing the obvious drawbacks, saw in the alliance—provided sufficient guarantees as to religion were obtained—a means of clearing the political horizon, and therefore promoted it. But Henry himself, though he wrote to Elizabeth that in his eyes she "was the most perfect beauty that God had made during the last five hundred years," does not seem to have been very keen on the match, and finally it was terminated "on the score of religion;" this was in the early spring of 1572. Before autumn, marriage negotiations were opened in respect to Henry's younger brother Francis; it is of this courtship that we find so much in the Cecil Papers. A strange story

it is, that these old letters reveal to us, and if we could believe that Francis was seriously attached to Elizabeth, his senior by 19 years, we could not withhold our sympathy with him for the way the Queen treated his suit—to-day smiling, to-morrow frowning upon it.

It would be tedious here to enter into the different phases of the suit, and, besides, the period covered by the Calendar did not witness its conclusion; but an extract here and there from the correspondence between the Queen and her juvenile suitor is worthy of quotation. The correspondence is in French, and Elizabeth's scholarly style of writing the language is in strange contrast with the blunders which Francis makes in almost every letter. He was conscious of his own defects, which he says are due to the troubles that through his short life have ever crossed his path and left him no leisure, "*deprandre afayre les belles parolles.*" After a fruitless visit to England in the autumn of 1579, he writes to Elizabeth, on embarking to cross the Channel on his return to France, that he knows well he is "not himself," being "continually occupied in wiping away the abundant tears which flow from my eyes without intermission." . . . "My affection will remain unchanged, for I am the most faithful and affectionate slave that can be on earth. As such, on the shore of this troublous sea, I kiss your feet."

In the spring of 1581, Francis sent the Queen a bunch of flowers,—"I thank you" she wrote "very humbly for the sweet flowers gathered by the hand with the small white fingers which I bless a million times, and declare to you that never was present better carried, for the bloom remains on them as fresh as if they had been gathered this moment, and represents very vividly your verdant affection towards me. I trust I shall never give any just cause for it to fade."

Of Francis's personal appearance we have the following description in a letter to Burghley—"For his personage me thinketh the portrature doeth expresse hym very well, and when I sawe hym at my last audience he seemed to me to growe dayly more hansom than other. The treat of hys visage may be gathered likewise by hys pictur, but not hys couleour which ys not naturally red *sed neque pallidus nec niger nec candidus neque tamen omnino fuscus.* The pock-holes ar no great disfigurement in the rest of hys face, bycause they ar rather thick than deepe or greate." As to his behaviour he was "the most moderat yn all the Court."

Whilst on his expedition to relieve Cambray, Francis wrote many letters to Elizabeth, which are interesting, as something more than amorous effusions, since they often give us a vivid picture of the

scenes which the Duke saw around him. So soon as the Duke of Parma retreated from the town, Francis hastened to inform the Queen of the good success, which had attended his expedition. The standards he has captured he hopes soon to lay at her feet, where he "would fain consecrate all his trophies," and he attributes his triumph largely to his possession of one of her Majesty's garters! We may judge of the amount of pecuniary aid which England furnished towards this expedition, from the numerous and grateful acknowledgments which Francis gives of money received.

Besides these principal features, the Report on the Cecil Papers contains a vast store of material for the history of social life in Elizabethan England, and we obtain from Lord Burghley's correspondence some curious peeps at the inner life of men and women of the period, whose names now figure conspicuously in the pages of history, so that, taken in conjunction with the fact that, as we have said, additional light is thrown on events of admitted historic importance—the present is certainly one of the most valuable reports that the Historical Manuscripts Commission has yet presented to the public.

W. J. HARDY.



The Appledore Private Press, U.S.A. II.

IN the spring of 1887 was printed at the Appledore Press a little book (16mo.) entitled *Love-Lore*. It is a collection of a hundred lyrical poems, and the impression was limited to fifty copies. On these songs of his later years Mr. Linton's poetic reputation will mainly rest. *Claribel and other Poems*, published in 1865, now a somewhat scarce book, is well known and duly appreciated; and *The Plaint of Freedom*, anonymously issued in 1852, drew from Landor a tribute of splendid praise. But only in *Love-Lore* is Mr. Linton seen at his best. As we turn the pages we can fancy at times that we are back in the age of *England's Helicon* and Davison's *Poetical Rhapsody*. We seem to be listening to the *Shepherd Tony* or sweet-tongued "A. W.", whoever "A. W." may have been. There is a tripping tunefulness in Mr. Linton's numbers, a playful winsome archness, that continually reminds us of the Elizabethan lyrists. Here are some verses that might pass as a lost lyric of Nicholas Breton:—

"Trail thy broken pinion, Love!
Bind thine eyes with sorrow!
I, no more thy minion, Love!
Bid thee Good-morrow.

Useless to dissemble, Love!
Never can we borrow
Past content: dost tremble? Love!
Bid thee Good-morrow.

Limp away! forget me, Love!
I have wed with sorrow.
My prayers do not let thee, Love!
Bid me Good-morrow."

As a selection from Mr. Linton's poems is now in the press¹ it is unnecessary here to multiply quotations. But space may be found for the verses that serve as a proem to the forthcoming volume:

"In Childhood's unsuspecting hours
The Fairies crown'd my head with flowers.

¹ Mr. J. C. Nimmo will publish the volume in the spring. It will contain nearly all the poems in *Love-Lore*, select poems from the "*Claribel*" volume, and a number of verse-translations (published for the first time) from the French.

Youth came, I lay at Beauty's feet :
She smiled and said my song was sweet.

Then Age : and, love no longer mine,
My brows I shaded with the vine.

With flowers, and love, and wine, and song,
O Death, life hath not been too long."

What better gift could a man crave than the attainment of such cheery Anacreontic philosophy?

Famine, A Masque, with a frontispiece borrowed from William Blake, presents Mr. Linton in a very different mood. The friend of Worcell, Herzen, and Mazzini, he has dealt many a blow in the past against wrongdoers, and often has his voice been raised in the cause of the oppressed. *Famine* is a poem that would have pleased Mr. Linton's friend Ebenezer Jones, that uncompromising hater of plutocrats. It is a very vigorous piece of writing, and will produce in most readers a feeling of uncomfortableness. We prefer the whispers of Mr. Linton's lute to the thunders of his drum :

"The drum was angry, but the lute
Shall whisper what you will."

It remains to speak of the crowning achievement of the Appledore Press, *The Masters of Wood-Engraving*, a work which will unquestionably be the one authoritative treatise on that art of which Mr. Linton is incomparably the greatest living master. More than twenty years ago he commenced his researches in the Library and Print Room of the British Museum, making critical notes of what he found, with the intention of writing a history of wood-engraving. His original design was to write a book that might serve as a supplement to Jackson and Chatto's *Treatise on Wood-Engraving*, published in 1839. Chatto wrote rather as a bibliographer than as a critic ; and Jackson's engravings (useful enough as illustrations of the text), inasmuch as they showed only the designs of older and later engravings, gave no means of judging of the real character of the engravings themselves. The edition issued by Bohn, in 1860, merely added a miscellaneous gathering of indifferent cuts. As he proceeded in his work, Mr. Linton became convinced that, to do justice to the subject, an entirely new treatise must be written. But for many years he found no leisure to prosecute his work systematically.

At length, in 1883 and 1884, he began his researches anew at the British Museum, going over the whole ground again *ab initio*. The trustees granted him permission to take photographs ; and he had some two hundred taken, of the same size as the original engravings.

With his notes and photographs he returned, in 1884, to America, and began to write his book. When the scheme and plan of his work had been arranged, when the whole book was ready in rough MS. and a great portion had been fairly written, he began printing. He had a press, three sets of photographs, paper enough for three copies, and type enough for three pages, short royal folio. So he set three pages; worked off pages 2 and 3, distributed them, and then set up page 4 to complete the sheet, with page 1 for the other side of the sheet. The composition and printing of the 229 folio pages was the work of his own hands. Add to this that he mounted all the photographs himself, in two of the three copies. For more than two years Mr. Linton was hard at work—writing, printing, and mounting photographs. Think, you collectors of rarities, think! Three copies in all the wide world—three! One is here in England, at Chiswick, in the custody of Messrs. Dawson, who are reproducing the illustrations under Mr. Linton's personal superintendence. By the time Messrs. Dawson—and Messrs. Whittingham—have finished with it, this working-copy will have lost something of its freshness. The two other copies are at Appledore, and one of them is still incomplete. So there is really in all the world but one fresh and faultless copy of *The Masters of Wood-Engraving!*

From an examination of the Chiswick copy we may give a brief notice of the contents of this noble book, which is now in course of printing.¹ Mr. Linton has aimed at producing a work that shall not merely have a bibliographical interest, but shall be of critical value from an engraver's point of view, with plentiful examples from which the technique of any man may be closely studied. The illustrations, as near as possible to the dimensions of the originals, vary in their size from small initials by Holbein, to subjects and part-subjects by Durer over twelve inches by eight (and in some instances considerably larger). As reproductions, showing absolutely the touch of the engraver, they may more fairly be called *fac-simile* than any heretofore published. They have been chosen—and in each case only the best impressions chosen—from the early block-books, from the works of Durer, Cranach, Beham, Holbein, and the later German and French Masters; and from the best works of the English School, the works of Bewick, Nesbit, Clennell, Branstons, Thompson, Harvey, and others.

¹ There will be five-hundred small paper copies (short royal folio) and one hundred large paper. The book will be printed for subscribers only. Prospectuses may be obtained on application to Mr. W. J. Linton, 4, Trafalgar Square.

The first chapter, "The Beginnings of Engraving," follows much on the lines of Chatto, to whom Mr. Linton acknowledges his indebtedness. The second, "Saints and Playing-Cards," treats of the early Welgen or Saint-Pictures, the St. Christopher of 1423, the Annunciation, the St. Bridget, the Virgin of Berlin; with a close account of the contention as regards the claim of the Brussels Virgin to be dated earlier than St. Christopher, and with a fair consideration of Chatto's views on playing-cards. In the third chapter a full notice is given of the Block-Books, the *Apocalypse*, the *Canticum Canticorum*, the *Biblia Pauperum*, the *Ars Moriendi*, with comparison of copies to distinguish the order of editions. "Wood or Metal," the fourth chapter, leads us from Fust and Schoeffer's Psalter to the *Speculum Humanae Salvationis*, and thence to the early books of Germany and Italy, *The Meditations of John of Turrecremata*, *Breydenbach's Travels*, *The Nurnberg Chronicle*, *The Hypterotomachia*, etc.; to Caxton's Works; and to the French Hours. The difficulty of distinguishing between relief blocks on wood and relief work in metal is here very clearly stated. In the fifth chapter Mr. Linton treats of Jerome of Nurnberg, the engraver of the best work from the drawings of Durer, and reviews Durer's *Apocalypse*, the two Passion Series, the Life of the Virgin, and the Maximilian Triumph (with a notice of Burgkmair's part in the Procession). The sixth chapter deals with Lutzelburger's cutting of Holbein's designs for the Dance of Death, the Bible, and the Holbein initials. "Altdorfer to Papillon," the seventh chapter, passes in review the artists of the XVIth century, with later German, French, and English Work, until we approach the days of Bewick and a new style of procedure. This first part of Mr. Linton's book stands under the head of knife-work; for all we know of wood-engraving, during the period there treated, was cut with knives, on slices of wood sawn plank-wise. The Bewick and later work is cut with gravers, on ends or sections (rounds) of wood. Mr. Linton, in the eighth chapter, "Before Bewick," gives specimens of engraving in relief in the Bewick style, probably engraved on metal, preceding Bewick by sixty or seventy years. Bewick's own doings are very fully represented in the ninth chapter, and very appreciatively criticised. While giving Bewick his full share of praise, Mr. Linton clears away much of the ignorant and misty admiration that has hindered the understanding of his real merits. Justice is done, in the tenth chapter, to Bewick's pupils—Clennell and Nesbit; and the eleventh chapter is devoted to Branstons and Thompson. In the twelfth chapter, "Aftermath," we have notices of Harvey, William and Hugh Hughes, the two brothers

Williams, Jackson, Powis (a scarcely known name), and two Americans—Anderson, who closely copied Bewick, and Adams. The thirteenth chapter is significantly headed "In the Winter." Here Mr. Linton reviews the art in what he considers to be its decadence, "the falling into imitation of copper-plate engraving through abandoning the 'white line' engraving of Bewick and his pupils." He writes strongly, but fairly and without harshness, of the faults that he finds in late English work, in the French Doré engravings, and in the "new departure" in America. His strictures should command attention, and will doubtless provoke criticism. The volume concludes with a brief chapter on Chiaroscuro.

Truly, for Mr. Linton, "life hath not been too long." Let us hope that, when he has issued *The Masters of Wood-Engraving*, he may be induced to give us his *Reminiscences*. While his enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever, his judgment has been strengthened and sweetened by the flying years.

On the Poetry of Artifice.

(From the Persian.)

"Within this verse (quoth DICK) you see
There's not a single A. or B."

"Why not (said NED) go farther yet,
And leave out *all* the alphabet?"

AUSTIN DOBSON.



A Bibliographical Martyr—Dr. Robert Watt, Author of the *Bibliotheca Britannica*.¹

IF any apology were needed in connection with the presentation of a paper upon the Life and Work of Dr. Robert Watt, the author of the *Bibliotheca Britannica*, it ought surely to be a humble and contrite one on the part of the reading and writing public, for seventy years of comparative neglect and indifference.

The *Bibliotheca Britannica* is in use in every library possessing any bibliographical tools at all, and yet how very little is known about the man who produced it? The best account of Watt is to be found in *Chambers' Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen*. It is indeed, as far as I have been able to find, the only notice of Watt deserving attention. The rest are scrappy and inaccurate, beyond even the average scrappiness and inaccuracy of biographical dictionaries. The new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* does not mention Watt, but let us hope that Mr. Leslie Stephen's *Dictionary of National Biography* will make amends and do justice to the memory of an accomplished and notable man.

Robert Watt was born at his father's farm of Bonnington in the parish of Stewarton, Ayrshire, on the 1st of May, 1774. The farm had been in the possession of the family for several generations, but the Watts seem to have been more joiners and wheelwrights than farmers. At the death in 1810 of John Watt, our author's father, the farm was sold.

Watt received very little if any day-schooling. Like another son of Ayrshire, Robert Burns, he was early impressed into the work of the farm. There was little time for schooling and no time for play. The day began early and ended late. With his two brothers, Watt attended an evening school, and what he picked up there he supplemented by study during the odd moments of the day. Whether as herd-boy, plough-boy, or stone-dyker, he seems to have been eagerly bent upon self-improvement, and determined if possible to enter college and study for one of the learned professions. Thus in plain living and high thinking was Watt's youth spent, and so assiduous was he in the acquisition of knowledge, not forgetting the acquirement of a few pounds of the current coin of the realm, that he was able to enter as a student at the College of Glasgow by the time he had turned his eighteenth year. The indomitable perseverance which was afterwards to come to his help in the compilation of the gigantic

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Glasgow, Sept. 1888.

work with which his name is associated, carried him triumphantly through his early difficulties.

One of the Professors under whom he studied in the College of Glasgow, was William Richardson, author of numerous works, and an intimate friend and ardent supporter of the brothers Foulis—Glasgow's famous printers.

It is not improbable that Richardson may have first directed the mind of his student to the value of a systematic and readily available record of literature, as we know that as early as 1799 Watt began collecting materials, which were afterwards used in the *Bibliotheca*.

At the conclusion of his studies at the University in 1797, Watt gave some attention to theology, but subsequently forsook the church for the hospital. In 1799 he qualified for medical practice by passing the examination of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow. The first scene of his labours was Paisley, the birthplace, and the home of many famous men. Fortune smiled upon the young doctor, and his practice increased so rapidly that he was soon obliged to take a partner. He remained in Paisley for the space of ten years. During this period, while busy professionally, he was not idle with his pen, and produced a large number of works on medical and philosophical subjects. One of these, a treatise on cases of diabetes, consumption, &c., with observations on the history and treatment of disease in general, was published in 1808, and created considerable discussion in medical circles at the time. Dr. Watts' other published writings besides the *Bibliotheca* were a *Catalogue of Medical Books, for the use of students attending Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine; with an address to medical students on the best method of prosecuting their studies*. Glasgow, 8°, 1812. A *Treatise on the History, Nature and Treatment of Chin-cough; including a variety of cases and dissections. To which is subjoined, An inquiry into the relative mortality of the principal Diseases of Children, and the numbers who have died under ten years of age, in Glasgow during the last thirty years*. Glasgow, 8°, 1813. *Rules of Life; with reflections on the Manners and Dispositions of Mankind*. Edinb. 12°, 1814. This was published anonymously. Dr. Watt also made several contributions to scientific journals. No kind of literature ages and becomes obsolete so soon as that pertaining to the cure and care of the body, and Dr. Watt's medical writings, with one exception, have suffered the usual fate. The exception is the remarkable appendix to the treatise on chin-cough, an appendix which has been and still is a mine of information to the medical statist.

Feeling the need of a larger field for the exercise of his vocation, Dr. Watt took a journey into England and visited most of the principal towns with a view to settling down, but unable to make a choice, he returned home in the course of a few months, and shortly afterwards removed from Paisley to Glasgow. This was in 1810. His reputation as a skilful doctor preceded his appearance in Glasgow, and when he set up in Queen Street as Physician and Accoucheur, he very soon obtained a large and excellent practice. He had previously received the degree of M.D. from the University of Aberdeen, and local honours crowded upon him in the course of a few years. He was elected President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, and appointed one of the physicians to the Royal Infirmary. For several years he lectured on the Theory and Practice of Medicine to crowded classes. He was a fluent speaker and an attractive lecturer.

There are two portraits of him in the rooms of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons. One represents him when a young man in Paisley; the other, much the finer of the two, had probably been painted four or five years before his death. Both pictures bear out the statement that he was a man of fine bearing, tall and handsome. For the purposes of his classes he accumulated a large collection of medical books, to which he gave his students free access. To enable the young men to readily make use of the collection he compiled a catalogue of it, which he published in 1812. This catalogue consisted of an alphabetical list of authors, with an index of subjects, and was the forerunner of the *Bibliotheca*. The utility of the index was so apparent that Dr. Watt at once set about enlarging its scope, so as to include the titles of all medical books published in the United Kingdom from the introduction of printing into England. When he had done this he again extended his plan, taking in books treating of law. As the work grew the scheme of the compiler expanded. After taking in law he embraced divinity, and before he again made a halt the whole body of literature, which for want of another name the librarian still calls "Miscellaneous," was included in the as yet untitled bibliography.

He was now in a position to print. He had finished as far as his means and opportunities permitted him a definite and much wanted piece of work—the indexing for ready reference of the whole body of British literature. He issued a prospectus which received a favourable reception, and thus emboldened, he prepared for publication. On the eve of going to press he once more resolved upon enlarging the work, and resolutely sat down to the herculean task of

recording the principal productions of the printing press throughout the entire world.

The labour of compilation soon crushed out all other work, and in 1817 Watt abandoned his professional career, and devoted himself entirely to the *Bibliotheca*. The prosecution of his self-imposed task seriously aggravated a constitutional disorder, and for the last two years of his life Watt was a confirmed invalid. Still he kept manfully on, unwilling to leave the work unfinished. He employed amanuenses, and was also assisted by his two sons. To secure uninterrupted leisure he removed from the city to a house at Crossmyloof, then a village about two miles from Glasgow, but now a part of the city actual, though not yet municipal.

The result of this unremitting labour was that the work made great progress. So alas did the malady which was sapping away the life of the heroic worker. It was a race between work and death. Hoping to improve his health Dr. Watt went from Leith to London by sea, and afterwards made a sojourn in some of the country districts of England, but all to no purpose. He returned to Glasgow in worse health than ever, and took to his bed, from which he hardly ever again rose. Although confined to bed he continued working at the *Bibliotheca*, supervising the work of his assistants, but a day came soon when, finished or unfinished, the labourer's work was done. Dr. Watt died on the 12th of March, 1819, in the 45th year of his age: a martyr to bibliography if ever there was one. He is buried in Glasgow cathedral churchyard.

Fortunately Dr. Watt left the manuscript of the *Bibliotheca* in an almost completed state (some of the first sheets were printed off), but, to allay any anxiety on the part of the subscribers as to the condition of the work, the family of the deceased bibliographer caused the manuscript to be examined by four esteemed citizens of Glasgow, well able to form an opinion upon the fitness of the work for immediate publication. These gentlemen were the Rev. Dr. Thomas Chalmers, Prof. Jardine, James Ewing, and Ralph Wardlaw. After examining the manuscript they issued the following report:—

“Glasgow, April 14th, 1819.

“In consequence of the lamented death of the late Dr.

“Robert Watt, of this city, we have been requested by his family and his publisher to examine the manuscripts of the “*Bibliotheca Britannica*, left by him in the possession of his “son, and now in course of publication.

“In compliance with this request we have this day inspected “the numerous written volumes of this laborious work, going

“through the contents of each letter *seriatim*, and comparing
 “their relative proportions. It was not, of course, within our
 “commission to form any judgment of the execution and merits
 “of the work itself; but we are happy to have it in our power to
 “assure the subscribers, that, as far as our examination could
 “enable us to judge, it has been left by the author, throughout,
 “in a state of readiness for publication. Nor can we forbear
 “adding our attestation to the striking evidence afforded by it of
 “indefatigable industry and unwearied perseverance, in a
 “department of labour too, which, however useful in its results,
 “must appear to most minds to possess few allurements in
 “the execution. The author, we understand, devoted the
 “greater part of the last twenty years of his life to the collection
 “and arrangement of the necessary materials, and of these *the*
 “*whole* has been copied *thrice*, and some parts of them even *six*
 “*and seven times*.

“During the last four years his son has been engaged, under
 “the direction of his father, in forwarding and completing the
 “work; and, from the experience he has thus had, as well as in
 “other respects, we have no doubt of his qualifications for
 “perfecting what yet remains to be done, in adding the new
 “publications which may make their appearance during the
 “progress of the work through the press.

“It is with sincere satisfaction we thus state our conviction
 “that this important work is not likely to suffer from the
 “decease of its author; and it is, at the same time, our earnest
 “desire and hope that his bereaved family may reap, both in
 “credit and emolument, the fruits of the courage which pro-
 “jected, and the industry which completed a publication which,
 “we are satisfied, will, on several accounts, form a very valuable
 “acquisition to the literary world.”

The printing of the work proceeded under the supervision of
 Dr. Watt's eldest son. The first two volumes were printed at Glas-
 gow and the third and fourth at Edinburgh. The printing of so vast
 a work necessarily occupied a long time, and it was not until 1824
 that the work was published. It was issued in eight parts and was
 dedicated to George the Fourth, who by the way does not seem to
 have subscribed for a copy; 505 copies were subscribed for before
 publication, and the hope expressed by the examiners of the manu-
 script, that the family of the deceased bibliographer might reap sub-
 stantial emolument from the publication of the work, seemed likely
 to be fulfilled. Messrs. Archibald Constable and Co., the well-known

publishers of the *Waverley Novels*, agreed to publish the work, and undertook to pay Mrs. Watt the sum of £2000 for the right. Bills to this amount were sent to Mrs. Watt, but before they could be turned into money the great publishing house came down, and the Watts, with many others, were involved in ruin. Misfortune seemed to have marked the family of the unfortunate bibliographer for its own. The whole city was shocked one morning, some months after Dr. Watt's death, to learn that the home of his widow had been entered by a band of robbers and stripped of every removable thing of value. The miscreants, who were nine in number, were so bold and ruffianly as to make the poor lady wrench the rings from her fingers. I have seen it stated that they destroyed a portion of the manuscript of the *Bibliotheca*, and that it took a year's labour to repair the mischief, but it is difficult to see how the missing portion could be replaced, and for the present, therefore, I hesitate to hand over the rascals to Mr. Blades for canonisation among the "Enemies of Books." For a time it seemed as if the scoundrels were to escape, but about a year after the date of the robbery four of them were caught, tried, found guilty, and robbery being then luckily a capital punishment, sentenced to death and executed. It was perhaps not inappropriate that the sermon to the condemned men was preached by a Director of Stirling's Library—the principal public library of the city.

In 1821 John, the eldest son of Dr. Watt, died, and the superintendence of the *Bibliotheca* fell to James, the other son. In 1829 he too died, his death, it is said, having been hastened by his severe labours on his father's great work. Mrs. Watt was now in very great straits. The Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow generously granted the poor lady a pension of £45 per annum, which enabled her, with teaching, to keep the wolf from the door. All her nine children save one—a daughter—died before her. After her mother's death this only remaining child of the once prosperous and popular physician was fated to suffer great hardships. The story is a pitiful one. The poor woman eked out the scanty sum left by her mother by sewing; living alone, and brooding over the sorrows of her family, her mind gave way, and she was removed to the asylum as a pauper lunatic. A strong representation was made to the Government of the day in favour of granting her a pension of £100 a year. This memorial was signed by, among others, Alfred Tennyson, Thomas Carlyle, John Ruskin, George Grote, Mrs. Gaskell, and Sir Frederick Madden. No answer was received for many months—not until after the poor lady's death had been intimated to one of the Prime Minister's secretaries. About a week

after this another of the premier's scribes wrote enquiring if Miss Watt could be supported upon £50 a year; if so, that sum might be given her. Poor Miss Watt!

Any lengthy description of the *Bibliotheca Britannica* is unnecessary, but some account of it may be pardoned for the sake of rendering this article more complete.

The work consists of four large quarto volumes. The first two contain the names of upwards of 40,000 authors, with full particulars of their works chronologically arranged. A few particulars are usually given, besides the titles and dates of the books, so that the work is something of a biographical as well as a bibliographical dictionary. The lists of works are often extremely full. England occupies 50 columns, Bible 42½, France 29, Sermons 26, Scotland 21, Rome 20, Great Britain the same, Jesus Christ 18, Psalms 17, Parliament 17, Cicero 16, Medicine 15, Ireland 14, Religion 14, Christianity 13, and Church 12. The second part of the *Bibliotheca* contains all the books mentioned in the first part arranged under subjects. Useful as the first part is, the second has doubtless solved many more difficulties for the searcher. In tracing the authors of anonymous books it is invaluable, and not the least merit of the arrangement is that, being chronological, it shows the literature of a subject historically. Not content with authors, Dr. Watt also gave long lists under the names of famous printers of the works which issued from their presses. Dr. Watt also anticipated the distinguished American librarian, Dr. Poole, by indexing a number of the transactions and journals of the day. To facilitate cross reference the first part is paged in a particular manner, so as to enable the reader to compare both entries of the same book.

To give those unfamiliar with the *Bibliotheca Britannica* some idea of the gigantic undertaking, the weight and worry of which broke down Dr. Watt's health, I may say that the manuscript consists of 57 folio volumes. It is preserved in the Paisley Free Library. The four volumes, of which in its present form the work consists, contain altogether 3179 pages. Each page is divided into two columns so that we have 6358 columns of print. Each column contains 86 lines averaging a dozen words each, which gives us 546,788 lines and 6,561,456 words in the whole book. A bibliography of all books is very liable to error, especially when as in Watt's case many of the descriptions had to be taken at second-hand. The *Bibliotheca* is frequently not to be wholly trusted, but on the other hand its positive merits are many. Its utility is proved by every-day use. The more one knows of the book the more one wonders how one man—and in

a short life too—could have accomplished so much. It is an amazing performance—a performance which proclaims its author a king amongst bibliographers. Stupendous as was his work, an even more stupendous task remains to be done. Our young men are fond of complaining that all the great men have lived before the present time, and that all the great things have been done. Railways, the telegraph, the telephone, and steam navigation are accomplished facts. Gibbon has written his *Decline and Fall*, Lord Macaulay his *History of England*. The Battle of Waterloo has been fought, and Donnelly has invented his Shakespeare-Bacon cipher.

What is there for the poor young man of the present period to be ambitious about? For the young man of a bibliographical turn, a great task lies at hand in the consolidation of existing bibliographies. A single bibliography, combining the stores of Watt, Allibone and Lowndes, with all their merits and none of their imperfections, is an achievement well worthy of a life's devotion. He who embarks upon it must be prepared for many years of arduous, unappreciated labour, and, if he expects to make a fortune out of his exertions, he had better turn to any other employment under the sun. This touches an important point. So large a work would require, not the intervals of other occupations for its accomplishment, but the whole time of at least one man with the leisure of as many more as he could gather round him. And how would the editor live while the work was in progress? Bibliographers are modest men or they would not pursue bibliography, but, however willing they may be to abjure Fortune, they cannot cheat Nature; and if they are to live and work, must at least eat.

To provide the sinews not of war but of peace, I would propose that, in the absence of a wealthy patron of literature willing to bear the expense, a British Bibliographical Society should be formed. A society formed upon a broad and liberal basis, having for its object the compilation of a bibliography of everything written by, printed by, or about English-speaking people throughout the world. Such a society, with a capable editor, would seem to me to provide a very practicable method of obtaining this most desirable end. Let us pray that the work may soon be undertaken and that it may fall into competent hands.

A French Bibliography of First Editions and a Plan for an English One.

IN bibliography the French always lead the way, and a French writer, M. Jules Le Petit, has lately written a book which ought to find imitators in every country in Europe. Its plan and object will best be explained by quoting in full from its title-page, which runs as follows: *Bibliographie des principales éditions originales d'écrivains français du XV^e au XVIII^e siècle par Jules Le Petit. Ouvrage contenant environ 300 facsimilés de titres des livres décrits.* Paris (Maison Quantin), 1888. 40. pp. vii, 583. To choose out three hundred of the most famous works in a famous literature, to reproduce the title-pages with which they were first ushered into the world, to note all the peculiarities of the original editions, and generally to tell everything which, from a bibliographical point of view, is worth telling about them, this surely is a most delightful, if most difficult task, and M. Le Petit is to be congratulated no less upon his idea than upon the admirable manner in which he has carried it into execution. In his preface he is very needlessly deprecatory on both points. It has become the fashion for book collectors to apologize for their hobby, and M. Le Petit apologizes in his own person for encouraging them in it. There is no need to discuss here such a well-worn theme; suffice it to quote Mr. Frederick Locker's sensible summing up that it is a "pious thing to preserve old books, and the collecting, mending, binding and cataloguing of them are all means to such an end." This is the least that a book-collector can say in favour of his pursuit, and it is surely enough to make excuses needless. As to the plan of his bibliography, excellent as it is, M. Le Petit's apologies are more to the point. There are more than three hundred interesting works in French literature before 1800, even when the choice is restricted to the class of *Belles Lettres*, and the difficulties of a selection are proverbial. But as M. Le Petit professes his willingness, should his first instalment prove a success, to set about producing another, the most carping objector can hardly find permanent cause for quarrel.

The three hundred works, included in M. Le Petit's catalogue, appear from his index to be distributed among some seventy-seven authors. They are arranged in strictly chronological order, and it thus happens that it is the earlier pages of his work which are en-

riched with the most beautiful illustrations. Conspicuous among these is the title-page of the famous comedy of *Maître Pierre Pathelin*, issued about the year 1520 by the widow of Jean Trepperel. The printer's mark of Antoine Vérard is also very faithfully reproduced in connection with his edition (1486) of the *Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles*, while that of Philippe de Pigouchet is far less happily handled, either from the photograph having been taken from a bad original, or from some failure in the method of reproduction. As we leave the early years of the sixteenth century the printers' marks disappear altogether, and the title-pages grow less and less beautiful, until those of Corneille and Racine become as staring and uninteresting as any which ever issued from an English press. The method of reproduction employed appears to have been that of zincotype, which is rather too hard and black in its effects, while the fact that the illustrations are printed as a part of the text still further handicaps them. The question of expense, however, had of course to be very seriously reckoned with, and on the whole M. Le Petit was probably right in preferring to have a somewhat rough reproduction of the title-page of each of his three hundred works, rather than to concentrate the funds at his disposal on a smaller number of more finely executed illustrations.

While human nature continues what it is the money-value of a rare book will always be a matter of curiosity, and the brief paragraphs at the end of each of his articles, in which M. Le Petit traces the fortunes of his First Editions at successive auctions, form by no means the least interesting feature of his work. He tells us in his preface that prices rule a little lower than they did a few years ago; apparently they were at their highest between 1875 and 1880, but the figures reached even in those years will hardly seem extravagant to English readers. It is significant that the highest price recorded was obtained at an English sale—the Sunderland, when the first edition of *Pantagruel* was knocked down for £320. With this exception, a bid of 6000 francs seems sufficient to ensure the acquisition of a beautifully bound copy of almost any French first edition. The first complete edition of Molière (1666), Vérard's *Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles* (1486), and *La Dolce Science* of Jean Marot, have all fetched this sum, when in original bindings or in the scarcely less valuable dresses from the workshop of M. Trautz. The collected works of Racine and Corneille may be obtained for about 2000 francs less, and their single plays for from about £10 to £20 a-piece. Compared with the prices paid for Elizabethan quartos these sums will seem insignificant, and yet they scarcely represent the full dis-

proportion between the values which the collectors of the two nations set upon the master-pieces of their respective literatures. At a French sale it is not too much to say that the bindings are reckoned of much greater importance than the books they enclose, and there is hardly any limit to the difference in price which the magic words "*relié par Trautz*" are capable of effecting. When we remember that this famous binder was known to charge as much as £250 for his work on a single volume, these differences will cease to be surprising. But it remains hardly creditable to the sense of proportion in our artistic neighbours, that in all M. Le Petit's catalogues there is no price mentioned, which approaches even to the half of the 17,500 francs which M. James Rothschild was content to give, a few years ago, for a binding by Padeloup.

It would be pleasant to examine M. le Petit's excellent book in greater detail, but the present writer is especially interested in the question as to the lines on which a similar work in honour of English First Editions must proceed, and it is to this subject that he would now invite the consideration of his fellow librarians. It will hardly be disputed, certainly not in this country, that English literature is on the whole much richer than French. On the other hand, although we are apparently much readier to pay long prices for old books, our interest in bibliography is considerably less. Hence an English editor, who shared M. le Petit's amiably expressed preference for enriching his publisher rather than ruining him, could not possibly contemplate a series of volumes, but would have to compress all the works he wished to deal with into one. This is not altogether a misfortune. Among the three hundred works, which M. le Petit has selected from French imaginative literature, there are at least a few which can hardly, even by courtesy, be termed classics; for our English bibliography, it might be well to slightly enlarge the field so as to include the chief translations of the Bible, the best of our sixteenth century chronicles, a few books of travel, like Purchas's *Pilgrims* and Hakluyt's *Voyages*, and even a few philosophical works like Hobbes' *Leviathan* and Newton's *Principia*. By this means the riches placed at the Editor's disposal would be so vast, that it would be only by his own lack of judgment that any work would be included in his catalogue which was less than first rate. With the introduction of works other than imaginative the question of classification arises, and opinions will differ as to whether the insertion of *Newton's Principia* (1687) between the poems of Dryden and Pope would or would not be incongruous. The character of the poetry of the eighteenth century is an argument for replying in the negative,

and it might fairly be maintained that any work, whose entry in its chronological order in our catalogue appeared in any way grotesque, should have no place in the catalogue at all. On this point, however, our imaginary editor must take his burden upon his own shoulders.

The difficulty of the authors and works, which should and should not be included in the catalogue, fairly surmounted, the next point for consideration is the method of describing and annotating each book. As regards description, if a sufficiently venturesome publisher can be found, zincotype reproductions of the title pages will remove the difficulty; if not we must fall back on accurate transcription, and (preferably) with due indication of the beginning of each new line. Annotations invite discussion: the interesting points in a French first edition are not quite the same as in an English one, and the differences are sufficiently great to preclude a slavish following of M. le Petit. Thus the *Privilege*, which in French books plays a conspicuous part, and is often our only direct authority for the author's name and the date of publication, in England seldom reaches beyond the five words *Cum privilegio ad imprimendum solum*. On the other hand, since in England, despite the exertions of the Stationers' Company, books were less well protected from piracy than across the Channel, the English bibliographer often has the amusement of unravelling the mysteries of surreptitious editions, and arrives at last at the conclusion that, in the golden age of our literature, it was rather the exception than the rule for the work of any well-known author to come lawfully into the world. Lastly, our English prefaces have a flavour peculiarly their own, and one which entitles them to a larger share of notice than they have generally received. For, in our prefaces, we may hear Caxton telling us of his troubles with the text of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and of the friendly gentleman who lent him a manuscript wherewith to improve his second edition; or, we may listen to good Messrs. Heminge and Condell bidding "the great variety of readers" censure the plays of their dead comrade as they will—"Do so, but buy it first: that doth best commend a book, the stationer says. Then how odd soever your brains be or your wisdoms, make your license the same, and spare not. Judge your six-pen'orth, your shillings-worth, your five shillings-worth at a time, or higher, so you rise to the just rates, and welcome. But whatever you do, buy." What cheap-jackery this is! and yet these players could praise well when they liked, and speak of Shakespeare as of one "who, as he was a happy imitator of nature, was a most gentle expresser of it; his mind and his hand went

together; and what he thought he uttered with that easiness that we have scarce received a blot in his papers." In the preface to the quarto of *Troilus and Cressida* there is the like mixture of tones, the same anxiety to convince the hesitating purchaser that his "testern" will be "well bestow'd," and a few lines later the curiously bold prediction, "And beleewe this that when hee is gone, and his Comedies out of sale, you will scramble for them, and set up a new English Inquisition." From Shakespeare to Bacon is nowadays but a slight step, and we turn from *Troilus and Cressida* to the tiny volume of ten Essays which on the thirtieth of Januarie, 1597, the future Lord Chancellor from his "Chamber at Graies Inne" dedicated "To M. Anthony Bacon, his deare Brother." "Louing and beloued brother," he begins, "I doe nowe like some that haue an Orcharde ill neighbored, that gather their fruit before it is ripe, to preuent stealing. These fragments of my conceites were going to print. To labour the staie of them had been troublesome, and subiect to interpretation, to let them passe had been to aduēture the wrong they mought receiue by vntrue Coppies, or by some garnishment, which it mought please any that should set them forth to bestow vpon them. Therefore I helde it best discreation to publish them myselfe, as they passed long agoe from my pen, without any further disgrace then the weaknesse of the Author." He is aware, he goes on, of nothing in them "contrarie or infectious to the state of Religion," only he "disliked now to put them out because they will bee like the late new halfe-pence, which though the Siluer were good, yet the peeces were small." Space forbids the quotation as part of this paper of the beautiful prefatory dedication of Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia*, or of any other of the interesting passages which are scattered among the neglected "preliminaries" of our English first editions, but it is to be hoped that, if ever an English imitator of M. Jules le Petit is found, these quaint original prefaces may receive full justice at his hands.

ALFRED W. POLLARD.



The Stuart Exhibition at the British Museum. I.

A NUMBER of show-cases have been recently set apart in the King's Library at the British Museum for the exhibition of manuscripts, printed books, broadsides, proclamations, engravings, seals, medals, &c., illustrative of the royal House of Stuart, the bicentenary of whose abdication of the throne of England is now being celebrated. These collections, although not large, are extremely valuable and important, and, much as we wish to enter somewhat fully upon the subject, anything more than a few notes upon the general character and more prominent features of the exhibition is impossible. The necessary considerations as to space constrain us to limit ourselves to two brief notices.

Three cases are devoted to a well selected series of manuscripts of which the first in chronological order are some letters of the Stuart kings of Scotland.

Letter of James II. of Scotland to Charles VII. of France. Circa 1450.

Letter of James III. of Scotland to Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. Circa 1474.

Letter of James IV. of Scotland to his "derrest broder and cosyng" (Henry VIII. of England).

Letter from Queen Margaret, Wife of James IV. of Scotland and sister of Henry VIII. of England, to Cardinal Wolsey, beseeching him to show his "gud mynd" to her "for now it is the tyme. Me lorde, I pray you hartly to get me som mouve against nweyr (new-year) day, for ye know vell I moust gyf part of rewards and other nedful thynges both for the Kyng my brother's honour and myne, and I schal not put you to no more trovbul, but I be sysch you hartly, my lorde, that I may have it to morow at nyght at the farest for ells I vyl be dysapowntyed. But I put my hool trust in you and thys berer schal wayt upon you for your answer as our lord knauth wham kype you.—MARGARET R."

Letter from James V. of Scotland to his uncle Henry VIII. of England. Edinburgh 28th May. *s. a.*

In the same case is an interesting coloured drawing of the "Armes of Scotland and England July 1559 sent out of Franc;" being those assumed by Mary, as Queen of Scots and Dauphiness of France, quartering the arms of England. Below are written the lines:—

"The Armes of Marie Quene Dolphines of france;
The nobillest Ladie In earth for till advance

Off Scotland quene And of England also
Off Ireland als God haith providit so."

The shield bears per pale, *dexter*, coupé, in chief France and Dauphiné quarterly, in base Scotland, over all a dimidiated escutcheon of pretence coupé, France and England; *sinister*, quarterly 1st and 4th Scotland, 2nd and 3rd France and England quarterly.

On the opposite side of the show-case are exhibited a number of manuscripts of which we may mention the following:—

Letter from Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, second husband of his cousin Mary Queen of Scots, to Robert, Earl of Leicester, Dunkeld, 21st February, 1564.

Volume of poems, some of which are by Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, and some in the autograph of his mother, Margaret Douglas (afterwards Countess of Lennox) and of Lord Thomas Howard, who was imprisoned in the Tower of London for aspiring to her hand, and died there in 1536. The part of the volume which is exhibited is a page containing the following quaint lines of a love poem addressed and written by Henry Stuart, to Mary Queen of Scots whom he afterwards married.

"My hope is yow for to obtaine,
Let not my hope be lost in vaine.
Forget not my paines manifolde,
For my meanyng to yow untoulde.
And eke withe dedes I did yow crave,
With swete woordes yow for to have.

To my hape and hope condescend,
Let not Cupido in vaine his bowe to bende.
For us two lovers, faithfull, trewe,
Lyke a bowe made of bowynge yewe.
But nowe receave by your industry and art,
Your humble servant Hary Stuart."

Small as the literary merits of this effusion undoubtedly are, its historical interest is great, and as a specimen of calligraphy it is remarkable for its beauty.

Circular letter of Mary and Henry (Lord Darnley) as Queen and King of Scots, declaring a progress against the rebel lords (the Duke of Châtelherault, the Earls of Argyle, Murray, and others) and ordering men to join their majesties in arms at Edinburgh. Dated Edinburgh, 23rd August, 1565. Signed by the King and Queen.

Letter from Mary Queen of Scots, during her captivity in England, to her "well-beloved bedfallow Bess Pierpont," dated 13th September, [c. 1583]. In the course of the letter the captive Queen says, "layr & la saison sont si fascheus issi que ie desia bien sentu le change de layr de Worsoop."

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

ALLOA.—On December 14 the new Town Hall and Public Library, presented to the town by Mr. J. T. Paton of Norwood, was formally opened by the Earl of Mar and Kellie.

ARBROATH.—The librarian (Mr. John Ogilvie) has resigned. The directors have advertised for a successor—salary £60 with free house.

EDINBURGH.—Lord Rosebery has presented the Free Library with a set of the Spalding Club books, and Mr. W. M'Ewan, M.P., has given a set of those of the Maitland Club. These gifts make the library's set of Scottish Club publications complete.

GLASGOW: MITCHELL LIBRARY.—The Glasgow Town Council have passed a resolution which seriously affects the Mitchell Library. The only revenue available for the maintenance of the Library consists of the interest allowed by the Town Council upon the fund left by the late Mr. Stephen Mitchell, which now amounts to nearly £65,000, or about £2,000 less than when conveyed to the Town Council by Mr. Mitchell's trustees. Up to the present time the rate of interest allowed has remained at the amount at first fixed, namely 4½ per cent. The Town Council has now adopted a resolution of the Finance Committee to reduce the rate to 3 per cent. By this change the revenue of the Library Committee will be diminished by more than £800 a year. It is probable that a grant in aid of the Library funds will be made from some source at the command of the Corporation; but we may hope, with the *Glasgow Herald*, "that the Town Council will make the present crisis in the position of the Mitchell Library the occasion of securing, in whatever way seems best to them, the means of properly housing and creditably conducting it, until the ratepayers see fit to settle the whole question once for all, for centre and for districts, by adopting the Public Libraries Acts."

GLASGOW.—The Directors of Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library have appointed Mr. William Hutton librarian in succession to Mr. Mason. Mr. Hutton, who was sub-librarian, has been in the service of the library since the Glasgow Public Library, in which he was assistant, was amalgamated with Stirling's Library in 1870. The directors have paid another well-deserved compliment by appointing the principal assistant, Miss Morrison, as sub-librarian.

GLOSSOP.—The formal opening of the Free Library will not take place until the summer, but the reading-room was opened on Dec. 22. Lord Howard has presented 500 volumes.

HEREFORD.—Mr. Cockcroft, of the Royal Exchange Library at Manchester, has received the appointment of librarian and curator of the Free Public Library and Museum.

HULL.—The Committee of the James Reckitt Public Library have appointed Mr. Richard Hargreaves their first Librarian. Mr. Hargreaves is librarian of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—The Charity Commissioners have granted a site for a new Free Library for Bethnal Green, and a sum of £5,000 for a building, &c. The grant has been made in consequence of representations put forward a few months ago by a deputation consisting of Lord Kinnaid, Sir Whittaker Ellis, Sir James Tyler, Mr. Frank Bevan, the Rev. Dr. Tyler, and Mr. John Lobb—the member in charge of the Bethnal Green group of Board Schools. This deputation urged that the Free Library now existing was not sufficient to meet the requirements of

the poorer inhabitants of the locality, and especially of young people who are being educated in the schools; and the Commissioners were asked to take steps for the erection of an Institute, comprising a Free Library and rooms for technical education, &c. The Empress Frederick has sent a present to the Library. This is the tenth gift from Members of the Royal Family.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The result of the polling on the question whether Camberwell should adopt the Free Libraries Acts was declared on Jan. 9, as follows: for 11,407, against 7,050; majority in favour 4,357.

LONDON: CLAPHAM.—Mr. J. Reed Welch, librarian of the Public Library, Halifax, has been selected out of 197 candidates for the librarianship of the Clapham Public Library. It is a noteworthy fact that Mr. Welch is the third chief librarian of a large London parish who graduated in the Newcastle Library. Mr. Haggerston has reason to be justly proud of their success.

LONDON: HAMPSTEAD.—The Hampstead Public Library will in future be open on Sunday evenings, and the wants of the readers be attended to by a staff of volunteers.

READING.—A second branch reading-room has just been established in connection with the Free Library, in another of the board schools, and will be open from 6 till 10 p.m. daily. A juvenile lending department was also opened on the 1st of January, in a building near the central library. It will be reserved for young people of from eight to fourteen years of age.

SELKIRK.—The ratepayers of the borough have adopted the Acts, and Mr. Andrew Lang, who is a native, has promised a gift of books to the library about to be formed.

SITTINGBOURNE.—A Library and Reading-room, established under the Public Libraries Acts, were opened here on December 12. The Library starts with a gift of 4,000 volumes.

YARMOUTH.—The new reading room and other additions to the Free Library were formally opened by the Mayor (Mr. F. Danby Palmer) on the 14th January, the ceremony being followed by an "At Home," at the Town Hall. The number of books in the library has increased from 1600, at the date of the opening in May, 1886, to 7386 at the present time, while during the same period 266,149 volumes have been issued for home use. The reading room is visited by an average of 650 persons daily, and is supplied with 176 daily, weekly and monthly periodicals. The present reading room in the Tolhouse, will be used as a boys' and girls' reading room. An appeal is made for a much larger supply of books, especially in the reference and juvenile departments, as the funds at the disposal of the committee for this purpose are quite inadequate to meet the demands of the borrowers. The annual income of the free library consists of £650, produced by the 1d. rate, and about £75 from fines, advertisements, sales, &c., making a total of £725, while the principal items of expenditure are £175 (the amount of the instalment which has to be annually repaid on the loan raised for the erection of the new premises), and about £460 for salaries, newspapers, and other current charges, and for the expenses of the Gorleston Branch; leaving a balance of only £90 available for the purchase of new books and the replacement of old stock.

WINSFORD, CHESHIRE.—Mrs. W. H. Verdin, on December 14, opened the Free Library at Winsford, erected in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. An address was presented to Mr. J. T. Brunner, M.P., who had subscribed £500 to the Library Fund. Winsford is in the centre of the salt district, and Lord Thurlow, president of the newly formed salt syndicate, took part in the proceedings.

3ottings.

It would be ungrateful to ignore the kindly welcome which *The Library* has received, and the words of encouragement and counsel, both of correspondents and contemporaries. It would be impossible to answer our correspondents individually, and we therefore take this opportunity to thank them one and all, and to assure them that we have as carefully noted their suggestions, as we have gladly treasured their commendation. So far we have only seen one unfavourable notice. The *British Weekly* prophecies our early death, but even this evil omen is qualified by a word of gratitude for *one* item of news—so that, if like those the gods love, we are “marked to die” young—we shall in dying be comforted by the thought that we have not lived quite in vain.

At last the eyes of lovers of books are delighted, and their hearts comforted, by a worthy edition of *their* classic, the *Philobiblon*. Words of every day criticism or praise seem flat and stale, when one has to deal with such a book as Mr. Ernest C. Thomas's noble edition of De Bury; and those who know of his unwearied labours as secretary of the Library Association, and editor of the *Library Chronicle*—in addition to his professional work—can only wonder not that he has taken four years to accomplish such a *chef d'œuvre*, but that he has found leisure (?) to do it in so short a time. The unknown manuscripts and editions he has brought to light and collated for his text would in themselves make a small library, and his collating has been *verbatim et literatim*. We hope to give our readers very shortly an extended review of this notable book, which, it is not too much to say, marks an epoch in the history of Bibliography. A word of praise is due to the publishers (Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.) who have done their best to make the material part worthy of the matter. Beautifully printed on hand-made paper, and tastefully bound, we can imagine no more welcome gift than a copy of Thomas's De Bury.

We did not think that even the typical Scot would have taken seriously, still less personally, the harmless fun of “Theophrastus Junior,” but sundry letters we have received indicate the contrary. By the way, we believe the author is a Scot, but we know his kindly nature well enough to enable us to assure those whom it may concern that, whatever he has written or may write, there is nothing personal, and “nought set down in malice.”

In view of certain comments, it is only just to Mr. Austin Dobson to state that, in his first letter suggesting the “Moritz” article, he referred to Cassell's reprint of that quaint book; and it was almost *because* of that reprint, which seemed to have been practically ignored by the reviewers, that he determined to write upon Moritz, an old favourite of his.

The Pope Commemoration Committee have issued their report. It shows the commemoration to have been as great a success financially, as it was in every other respect. There was a balance, after paying all expenses, of £17, and this has been handed over to the Twickenham Free Public Library, and is to be expended in forming the nucleus of a Popean Collection. In referring to Mr. H. R. Tedder, the hon. secretary, the committee state that, without his “ability and zeal, their scheme could not have been carried into effect.”

Miss Lydia Becker has made a curious observation at a County Council meeting. Speaking in support of the Conservative candidate, she mentioned lending libraries as an instance of the unjustifiable expenditure of public money. A reference library, Miss Becker went on to say, was a right thing because the whole town benefited, but to spend money merely

for the personal improvement of the members of the community was, in her judgment, an unjustifiable wrong.

The Conference of Library Commissioners of London will be held on Wednesday, February 20th, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, King's Road, Chelsea, at 3 p.m.

Mr. Alphæus Smith—a member of the Library Association—has lately received a most gratifying testimony to the value of his services as librarian of the Quekett Microscopical Club. At a recent meeting the president, Prof. Lowne, presented to him, on behalf of the club, a testimonial, consisting of a valuable gold watch and chain, an album containing an illuminated address, signed by the contributors, and a purse of gold. The address stated that the subscribers presented the testimonial in recognition of services for 16 years, during which period "his uniform courtesy and untiring application to the duties of his office, have won for him their warmest gratitude and esteem."

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Battersea Public Libraries—Lammas Branch. Catalogue of the Lending Library. Compiled and edited by Laurence Inkster, chief librarian. . . . 1888. Royal 8vo, pp. 88. Price threepence.

Generally speaking this is a carefully compiled and well printed catalogue of a good, though small, lending library, and is one of the cheapest catalogues issued. There are some inconsistencies in the use of capitals, which are too frequently employed. *Noms-de-guerre* are almost invariably indicated by the use of italic type, but it would be an improvement if the real names were given with them.

Birmingham. Supplement to the Catalogue of the Birmingham [Proprietary] Library. (Published in 1883.) By Charles E. Scarse, librarian. . . . 1888. Royal 8vo, pp. 127.

The first, or main, portion of this catalogue—printed in long primer, full measure—is an author catalogue, giving edition, size, series, and the date of publication. The authors' names are set in a bold Clarendon type; cross references are indicated by italic type; and sub-subject headings in sans serif. Fourteen pages, in half measure, are devoted to the titles of works of fiction. The catalogue has been compiled with considerable judgment and care, and well and accurately printed. The real names of several well-known authors who have adopted *noms-de-guerre* ought, however, to have been given.

Cambridge Public Free Library. 1889. Catalogue of the Juvenile Lending Department. . . . (2d.) Royal 8vo, pp. 10; and Index Catalogue of the Central Lending Department. Fourth Supplement, 1889. (1st d.) Royal 8vo, pp. 15.

The first pamphlet is a title list of the carefully-selected eleven hundred volumes, which are freely available to Cambridge children between the ages of eight and fourteen years. It is accurately and fairly well printed. The supplementary catalogue is the fourth of a series of annual index catalogues, and is compiled with great care. Considerable labour has been bestowed upon it, and has made it of value beyond the limits of Cambridge. Under the heads of certain magazines there are the contents set out of the previous year's contributions to those periodicals, arranged alphabetically under the names of the writers. By obtaining Mr. Pink's catalogue, librarians will be enabled to lighten their labour at very trifling cost.

Douglas Free Public Library. Catalogue. Sm. 8vo, pp. 102.

This is a carefully printed catalogue of the excellent little library under the management of Mr. J. De Maine Browne, but it is evidently not the work of that indefatigable gentleman.

St. Helens. Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee of the St. Helens Free Public Library, 1887-88. pp. 20.

The committee report "a considerable increase both in the number of issues and in the number of visits paid to the reading rooms," the total issues being 114,175 vols. against about 100,000 in 1886-7, and the visits to the reading rooms, 264,943 as against 249,884 in the preceding year. There were 1,355 vols. added to the stock. The central lending library now contains 11,494 vols.; the reference library, 3,280; and the branch, 1,009 vols., making a total of 15,783 vols. The average attendance in the reading room on Sundays was 267, and on week-days 804. There are 172 newspapers and periodicals supplied. Two catalogues were printed during the year. The rate realized £595. The year's expenditure was £717. This is one of the best printed reports in the United Kingdom.

South Kensington Museum. Forster Collection. A Catalogue of the Printed Books bequeathed by John Forster, with index. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 8vo, pp. xxviii, 710. 9s.

This catalogue describes the printed books (over 18,000 volumes) bequeathed to the Department of Science and Art by the late John Forster, the biographer of Dickens. Another volume will be devoted to MSS., autographs, paintings, and other works of art, &c., forming the remainder of the bequest. The present publication contains a biographical sketch by the Rev. W. Elwin. The titles of the books are carefully and fully transcribed, and the contents of collections are set out. There are a few notes. Special credit should be given to the compiler, Mr. R. F. Sketchley, librarian of the Dyce and Forster Libraries, for his admirable index, which extends to 163 pages, and includes subject-headings such as autobiography, essays, first editions, letters, plays, &c.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Letters of David Hume to William Strahan. Now first edited, with notes, index, &c. by G. Birkbeck Hill. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1888. 8vo, pp. xli. 38s.

The letters to Wm. Strahan (1715-85), the king's printer, chiefly relate to books and bookselling. The text is overwhelmed with notes like a Dutch classical edition of the 17th century.

Fifteenth Century Bibles: a study in bibliography. By Dr. Wendell Prime. New York: Randolph & Co., 1888. 8vo, 94 pp.

Miscellaneous gossip about bibles of the familiar pattern, without bibliographical value.

Les tableaux historiques de la révolution et leurs transformations. Étude iconographique et bibliographique; par Maurice Tourneux. Paris: Charavay, 1888. la. 8vo, pp. 43.

The book described is *Tableaux historiques de la révolution française, ouvrage orné de 222 gravures, avec des discours*, Paris, Auber, 1791-1804,

3 vols. large folio, of which the text of the first 25 parts was written by Fauchet, Chamfort, and Ginguené, and the remainder by Pagès. This work is chiefly interesting for a remarkable series of engravings which illustrate every kind of episode during the period, drawn by artists who in most instances were spectators of the scenes they depict. M. Tourneux has for the first time shown the differences between the four editions of the *Tableaux*, and has given a complete list of the plates and the portraits.

Visconte Colomb de Batines. Giunte e correzioni inedite alla Bibliografia Dantesca pubblicate di sul manoscritto originale della R. Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze dal Dr. Guido Biagi. Firenze: G. C. Sansoni, 1888. 8vo, pp. ix. 264.

Necessary to every possessor of Colomb de Batines' great *Bibliografia Dantesca*, one of the most perfect bibliographical monographs ever produced.

Bibliographie des altfranzösischen Rolandsliedes, mit Berücksichtigung nahestehender Sprach und Literaturdenkmale; von E. Seelmann. Heilbronn: G. Henniger, 1888. la. 8vo, pp. xiii. 113.
The first systematic bibliography of the Song of Roland.

Mr. W. R. Douthwaite has reprinted, in a neat little volume, his interesting paper in the *Library Chronicle*, "Humphrey Wanley and his Diary" (London, 1888. sm. 8vo, pp. iv, 5-53).

The list of modern pseudonyms (chiefly English and American) in *Hazell's Annual* for 1889 has been thoroughly revised and much enlarged. Attention is very properly drawn to the fact that "the word *nom-de-plume* is not known in French, in which language the proper equivalent is *nom-de-guerre*."

The Library of Mary Queen of Scots is the title of a work on which Mr. Julian Sharman is engaged, and which Mr. Elliot Stock will publish in a limited edition.

Mr. W. Salt Brassington contributes "Notes on English Stamped Bindings," and Mr. W. H. James Weale "Examples of Early Binding," to the December number of *The Bookbinder*.

Why is the English translation of M. Jusserand's *English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages* placed in the January number of *The Bookseller* among Fiction?

The last number (November) of the *Library Journal* is full of the librarian v. architect controversy. It contains an article on "Suggestions for a Catalogue Page," in which a smaller page in smaller type is distinctly the more legible of the two specimens given, a most satisfactory proof in favour of handy-sized catalogues.

We are glad that Mr. Melvil Dewey's *Library Notes* (Boston: Library Bureau) continues to appear, and congratulate the editor and his readers that the austerity of the earlier numbers is being relieved by long articles of a more general interest.

Mr. Paul Leicester Ford has edited, with notes and a bibliography, 13 rare *Pamphlets on the Constitution of the United States* (1787-88) (Brooklyn, N. Y., 1888, 8vo, pp. vi., 451).

The Grolier Club is about to issue to its members a volume on Christopher Plantin and the Plantin-Moretus Museum, at Antwerp, which will contain all the illustrations given in the *Century*, for June, 1888. Three hundred copies on paper and three on vellum will be printed.

The Ministry of Public Instruction has only just issued the supplement and index to the *Répertoire des travaux historiques, contenant l'analyse des publications sur l'histoire, &c. de la France pendant l'année 1883* (Paris, 1888, la. 8vo.) It is doubtful whether the publication will be continued.

La Bibliographie de la gourmandise, by Georges Vicaire (Paris: T. Belin, 1888), is a tempting subject.

The excellent *Bollettino* of modern foreign literature acquired by the Italian governmental libraries, which was established last year, is proving very useful.

A new edition has been promulgated of the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum Leonis XIII. P.M. jussu editus* (Taurini, Typogr. Pontificia, 1889, sm. 8vo, pp. xlviii, 437), containing a list of the books forbidden down to 1888.

The January number of the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, contains the commencement of articles by Richard Förster, on the MSS. and editions of the pseudo-aristotelian "Secretum Secretorum."

The first part has been published by R. v. d. Meulen, of a new geographical bibliography of the Netherlands; *Algemeene aardrijkskundige bibliographie van Nederland* (Leiden, 1888, sm. 8vo, pp. xiv., 217). It will be completed in three parts.

The December number of the *Library Chronicle* will contain an important article by Dr. Garnett on Dziatzko's Cataloguing Rules. If possible the title and index for volume VI will accompany this number.

List of Recent English Books (selected).

- ADAMS (M. B.) Examples of old English Houses and Furniture (Batsford). folio. £1. 5s.
 ALLIES (T. W.) The Holy See and the Wandering of the Nations: St. Leo I. to St. Gregory I. (Burns and Oates). 8vo. 10s. 6d.
 ALLINGHAM (WM.) Flower pieces and other Poems (Reeves). sm. 8vo. pp. 194. 6s.
 BALFOUR (ALEX.) Memoir, by R. H. LUNDIE (Nisbet). 8vo, pp. 340. 6s.
 BECHER (REV. H. W.) Biography (Low). la. 8vo, pp. 700. 21s.
 BESANT (WALTER) For Faith and Freedom: a novel (Chatto). 3 vols. cr. 8vo. £1 11s. 6d.
 BING (S.) Artistic Japan (Low). vol. I, roy. 4to. 15s.
 BLACKIE (J. S.) Scottish Song (Blackwood). sm. 8vo, pp. 390. 3s. 6d.
 BOLINGBROKE (Viscount) Life, by A. HASSALL (Statesmen Ser. Allen). sm. 8vo, pp. 250. 2s. 6d.
 BROADFOOT (Major Geo.) Career in Afghanistan and the Punjab (Murray). 8vo, pp. 445. 15s.
 BRUCE (J.) The American Commonwealth (Macmillan). 3 vols. 8vo. £3 14s.
 BURY (Bp. RICH. DE) Philobiblon, edited by E. C. THOMAS (Kegan Paul). post 8vo, pp. lxxix, 259. 10s. 6d.
 CADOGAN (Lady ADELAIDE) Drawing Room Plays (Low). pp. 124. 10s. 6d.
 CHAUNG TAI: Mystic, Moralist, and Social Reformer, transl. by GILES (Quaritch) 8vo. 16s.
 COMBA (E.) History of the Waldenses of Italy, transl. (Truelove), 8vo, pp. 358. 7s. 6d.
 DYER (T. F. T.) The Folk Lore of Plants (Chatto). post 8vo, pp. 328. 6s.
 EDWARDS (C.) Rides and Studies in the Canary Islands (Unwin). post 8vo, pp. 380. 10s. 6d.
 ELLIS (WM.) Memoir (Longman). 8vo, pp. 196. 6s.
 FANE (VIOLET) The Story of Helen Davenant (Chapman). 3 vols. cr. 8vo. £1 11s. 6d.
 FARMER (J. S.) Americanisms (Poulter & Sons, privately printed). pp. 564. £1 11s. 6d.
 FRANCIS I. and his Times, by C. COIGNET, transl. (Bentley). 8vo, pp. 371. 14s.
 FREE (R. W.) Lux Benigna: the History of Orange Street Chapel (1693-1888). (Whittingham). Post 8vo, pp. 196. 7s. 6d.
 GIBBONE (W.) New Zealand: its history, vicissitudes and progress (Petherick). post 8vo, pp. 360. 7s. 6d.
 HAMERTON (P. G.) Portfolio Papers (Seeley). post 8vo, 396. 5s.
 HARRISON (J.) The Scot in Ulster (Blackwood). post 8vo, pp. 116. 2s. 6d.
 HUIER (M. B.) Japan and its Art (Fine Art Soc.). post 8vo, pp. 170. 10s.

- JAMES (HENRY) *The Aspern Papers* (Macmillan). 2 vols. post 8vo. 12s.
 JEFFERIES (RICH.) *Field and Hedgerow* [last essays]. (Longman). post 8vo. pp. 331. 6s.
 JESSERAND (J. J.) *English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages* (14th Cent.) transl. (Unwin). 8vo, pp. 451. 21s.
 KALEVALA (The) *The Epic Poem of Finland*, transl. by J. M. CRAWFORD (Putnam). 2 vols. 8vo. 15s.
 Land of Darkness, with some further chapters on the experiences of the Little Pilgrim, [by MRS. OLIPHANT] (Macmillan). post 8vo, pp. 236. 5s.
 LUCAS (C. P.) *Historical Geography of the British Colonies*. Pt. i (Froude) post 8vo, pp. 190. 5s.
 MAHAFFY (J. P.) and J. E. ROGERS. *Tour through Holland and Germany* (Macmillan). 8vo, pp. 276. 10s. 6d.
 MONTELIUS (O.) *Civilization of Sweden in Heathen Times*, transl. (Macmillan). 8vo, pp. 214.
 MORRIS (W.) *A Tale of the House of the Wolfings* (Reeves & Turner). 8vo, pp. 190. 6s.
 OGDEN (W. S.) *Sketches of Antique Furniture* (Batsford). 4to. 10s.
 POLLOCK (W. H.) *A Nine Men's Morrice* [Stories]. (Longmans). cr. 8vo, pp. 358. 6s.
 REIN (Prof. J. J.) *The Industries of Japan*, transl. (Hodder). la. 8vo, pp. 570. £1 10s.
 ROBINSON (A. M. F.) *The End of the Middle Ages* (Unwin). 8vo, pp. 406. 10s. 6d.
 ROMANES (G. J.) *Mental Evolution in Man* (Kegan Paul). 8vo, pp. 450. 14s.
 SMITH (E.) *Foreign Visitors in England and what they thought of it* (Stock). sm. 8vo, pp. 224. 4s. 6d.
 SOPHIA, Electress of Hanover (1630-80), *Memoirs*, transl. (Bentley). 8vo, pp. 270. 9s.
 STEAD (W. T.) *Truth about Russia* (Cassell). 8vo, pp. 458. 10s. 6d.
 WALTON and COTTON's *Compleat Angler*, edited by R. B. MARSTON (Low). demy 4to. £5 5s.
 WARD (T. H.) *Oxford*, illust. by JOHN FULLEYLOVE (Fine Art Soc.). folio. £2 2s.
 WORDSWORTH (W.) *Complete Poetical Works*, by J. MORLEY (Macmillan). post 8vo, pp. 970. 7s. 6d.
 ——— *The Recluse* (Macmillan), Post 8vo. 2s. 6d.
 YONGE (C. M.) *Beechcroft at Rockstone* (Macmillan). 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 12s.

Correspondence.

A FURTHER NOTE ON C. P. MORITZ.

I have spent much time over Moritz, in days gone by, and have included some notice of his book in my *Foreign Visitors in England* (Elliot Stock, 1888), with your permission I will contribute a word or two as complement to Mr. Dobson's article.

Moritz was a self educated man. He became a somewhat noted grammarian and man of letters. He tried several careers, and appears to have been a volatile character, perhaps quarrelsome. He was a schoolmaster in 1782, at the period of his travels to England. In 1784, he held a professorship at Berlin, and gave some successful lectures on the German language, history, and belles-lettres. This position he relinquished in 1786, and travelled into Italy. He presently made the acquaintance of Goethe, and of Angelica Kauffman. Being reduced to poverty, Goethe assisted him pecuniarily, and sent him back to Berlin; where he obtained the professorship of fine arts and archæology. The *Academy* of December 1st, notices a paper read at the Goethe Society, in which are some memoranda of Moritz's connection with Goethe. Moritz died in 1793, aged only 36, after having published several other writings, including a curious semi-biographical psychological work, *Anton Reiser*, a supplement to which was afterwards added by Kischinig (1794), avowedly as a fuller notice of Moritz's career.

The "young lady" who made the translation of the *Travels* was

probably the daughter of Mr. Leonhard, long resident in London, who is alluded to in the letter of 9th June.

The *Quarterly Review* of July, 1816 (pp. 542, *et seq.*) has quoted Moritz. EDWARD SMITH.

A very complete account of Moritz is given in the *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie*, and his *Travels* is largely quoted from, in an anonymous article in *Cornhill*, vol. 46, p. 706, *et seq.* Moritz's "dearest Gedike" was the German Dr. Arnold of his day.—Ed.

THE EARLY WRITINGS OF WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.

THE first number of *The Library* contains a notice of my little book, which finishes with the words: "The whole book should have been incorporated in proper form in the larger work—*The Bibliography of Thackeray*, which is advertised with it." The reviewer's mistake is not unnatural, but I shall feel obliged by your allowing me to state that I have never had anything to do with the anonymous work advertised at the end of my volume, and that it was only by an error of the publisher that the advertisement was inserted.

11, Savile Row, W.

CHAS. P. JOHNSON.

HENRY R. PLOMER.—We thank you for your letter, but as the errors you point out were corrected some time ago it would serve no good purpose to publish it now.—Ed.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

President:

THE WORSHIPFUL CHANCELLOR RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE.

Hon. Treasurer:

HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

Hon. Secretaries:

J. Y. W. MAC ALISTER,
53, Berners Street, W.

ERNEST C. THOMAS,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum. The members now number over 400, and represent all the important libraries of the country.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Besides the Annual Meetings, Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription. Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted without Entrance-fee.

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, and in *The Library Chronicle*. Its official organ is now *The Library*, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

The January Monthly Meeting was held on Monday, the 14th inst., in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, by the kind invitation of the Council of the College. Upwards of 40 were present. In the absence of the President, Professor Lund, F.R.C.S., occupied the chair. The Secretaries announced that the following gentlemen had joined the Association:—Mr. J. Cockcroft, Public Library and Museum, Hereford; Mr. Cyril James Davenport, British Museum; Mr. Dennis Douthwaite, Gray's Inn; Mr. Hugh James, Hon. Librarian, Shorthand Writers' Association; Mr. John G. Smieton, Theological College, Guildford Street, W.C., and the Committee of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Education Department, per Mr. Walter Murray. Mr. William Ormerod, J.P., of Todmorden, was proposed for election by Mr. Charles W. Sutton, and seconded by Mr. R. H. Sutton.

Mr. James Blake Bailey, Librarian of the College of Surgeons, read a paper on the History of the Library, and exhibited several of its most curious treasures. An interesting discussion followed, and a vote of thanks to the author was passed. Mr. Bailey then conducted the party through the Library and explained the new arrangements. A hearty vote of thanks to the Council of the College terminated a very pleasant evening.

A Meeting of the Council was held the same evening. A letter from Mr. Robert Harrison, the Treasurer, was further considered, in which he tendered his resignation of that office, in consequence of his continued ill-health. Much regret was expressed and, it being understood that Mr. Harrison had made up his mind on the subject, it was decided to accept his resignation.

A resolution expressing on behalf of the members of the Association their indebtedness to Mr. Harrison for his valuable services since 1877, and the regret that is felt at his enforced retirement, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry R. Tedder was elected treasurer of the Association.

The next MONTHLY MEETING of the Association will be held in the Library of Gray's Inn on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, at 7.30 p.m. The following Papers will be read:

I. On the best means of utilising small private libraries for purposes of self-education, by Professor Edward Lund, F.R.C.S., of Victoria University.

II. A Dynasty of Librarians, by the President.

A Meeting of Council will be held the same evening at 6.30.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 6a, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Printed for the Publisher, by J. DAVY & SONS, at the DEVDEN PRESS, 137, Long Acce, London, W.C.

The Library.

The Brothers Foulis and Early Glasgow Printing.¹

ROUND Glasgow printing there is no sort of romance or mystery, no glamour of antiquity. There is no doubt as to when it began. It is but of yesterday, just 250 years old, and its whole course lies open to the most casual inspection. Given a collection of the books, like several which exist in Glasgow, and the chronology presents hardly any difficulties. There is no question as to which of several books, without date and printer's name, comes first; as to whether, of some early very scarce volume, there are more copies on vellum than on paper; none about the unknown user of some specially shaped letter, or peculiar fount of type; all such delicacies as delight the epicurean bibliographer are conspicuously absent, and the early Glasgow books have their dates unmistakably on their title-pages—like Bardolph, they bear the lantern in the poop. As for the books themselves, it is impossible to look at any one of them and say, as one does of a first German, or Italian, or French book, that it is a beautiful work of art. On the contrary they are plain, even to ugliness, and in that respect are identical with those printed elsewhere at the same period of time. George Anderson, the first

¹ Read before the Library Association of the United Kingdom, Glasgow Meeting, September 5, 1888.

The following notes were thrown together at the request of the Local Reception Committee, who thought that, at a meeting of the Library Association in the place where the brothers Foulis printed, the work they executed should not be passed over in silence. As an introduction, something had to be said about Glasgow printing in general, but the paper is not a history, and was meant merely to excite the interest of those who had not had previously any occasion to concern themselves with it, and to serve as a kind of comment upon the Glasgow books shown at the University on the afternoon of the day on which this paper was read. For the early history of Glasgow printing, I am indebted to Macvean's sketch, quoted below; for the Foulises to Duncan's *Notices and Documents illustrative of the Literary History of Glasgow*, printed for the Maitland Club, Glasgow, 1831, reprinted, Glasgow, 1886, with additions; and for recent information to Mr. Mason's work on the Libraries of Glasgow, 1885. To these I have been able to add hardly anything, and I have left untold a great deal which will be found recorded in their pages.

printer, could not have done worse if he had followed the patterns set him by London or Oxford of the same year. Printing, in the two centuries following its discovery, steadily deteriorated, till in the seventeenth century are to be got the very ugliest and most debased specimens of paper and type. Unfortunately for Glasgow, the art was introduced into it while it was still sinking.

2. The earliest book upon which the name of Glasgow appears is a tiny anonymous pamphlet with the following title :

TRVE | CHRISTIAN | LOVE ; | To bee sung with any of
the | *common tunes of the* | Psalmes. | Col. 3. 16. | *Let the*
word of CHRIST dwell in you rich-ly in all wisdom ;
teaching and admonish- ing one another, in Psalmes and
Hymmes | and spirituall songs, singing with a grace | in your
hearts to the LORD. | Printed by I. W. for John Wilson | and
are to be sould at his shop | in GLASGOW. 1634. |

This is a small 8vo, not paged, but with signatures A, B, in all 16 leaves. It is a long hymn or sacred poem of 107 8-line stanzas, and was written by the Rev. David Dickson, of Irvine, who was afterwards Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. It was printed again in 1649 and 1700, and it was appended to another work by the same author, printed at Glasgow in 1772, to be mentioned hereafter.

3. This first edition, however, was not printed at Glasgow, as would almost appear, but at Edinburgh, and the initials in the imprint on the title are those of John Wreittoun, who was a well known printer of the time. Internal evidence also confirms this. In the *True Christian Love* there is one of those florid ornaments which the old printers used to put at the top of a page, or at the beginning of a main division of a book, or at any place where a blank space was to be avoided, and at the end of the poem there is a very rude wood-cut of a pelican, which serves as a sort of device. Now the very same florid ornament and the very same pelican with the words : "Rex Pater Patriæ, Instar Pelicani liberos suos fovere debet" appear in another exceedingly rare book, which in a way belongs to Glasgow, but was printed at Edinburgh by John Wreittoun :

Ad Carolum Magnæ Britannię ... Regem, ... Oratio Panegyrica, habita à Zacharia Bodio Glasguensis Ecclesię Pastore
... in Regia porticu Cœnobij sanctę Crucis, 17 die Iunii 1633.
pridie illius diei quo sacrum Regis caput cinxit aureum
Scotię Diadema.

Regis ipsius jussu prælo commissa.

Edinbvr̃gi, Excudebat Iohannes Wreittoun. 1633.

It was natural, perhaps, that this oration of the Rev. Zachary Boyd should be printed in Edinburgh, seeing that it was delivered at Holyrood, but it unexpectedly throws light upon a rather obscure matter connected with his most famous work: *The Last Battell of the Soule in Death*. There can be little doubt, I think, that this book would have been printed in Glasgow had there been a press in the city, and Boyd must have felt the want of one, and the trouble connected with sending constantly to Edinburgh. *The Last Battell* was printed at Edinburgh, in 1628, by the heirs of Andrew Hart, and then it was re-issued, split into two volumes, with the single 1628 title cancelled, and a new title prefixed to each division, dated 1629. One or two copies have two extra leaves, containing Latin verses addressed to Charles I. These leaves do not belong properly to the work at all, and are quite different from the rest of the book; they contain the pelican already mentioned, with the quotation *Similis sum Pelicano deserti*, and though the fount of type is not the same as that of the two preceding books, from their general style I am inclined to think that these leaves were printed by John Wreiton, possibly about the same time, and were inserted in a few copies for some reason which does not now appear.

4. It seems to me quite remarkable that Glasgow, containing as it did a University with men of great literary activity, with such a man as Zachary Boyd as well, should have been content to remain without a printing press for 130 years after the art had been introduced into Scotland, that both St. Andrews and Aberdeen had been notable for the books produced in them before Glasgow made any attempt at printing at all, and that, when a press was at last set up here, it seems to have been for a special purpose, and not because there was such an amount of work generally to be done as to attract a printer to settle in the place.

5. When the General Assembly met in Glasgow (1638) to discuss the religious question that kept harassing the people of all ranks, George Anderson, the Edinburgh printer, came to Glasgow, and brought a printing press with him. The first thing he was called upon to do was to print the conclusions at which the Assembly had arrived. This is the first piece of printing ever done in the city. Its title is as follows:—

The | Protestation | Of The Generall | Assemblie Of The |
Church of Scotland, And Of | The Noblemen, Barons, | Gentle-
men, Borrowes, Mi- | nisters And Commons; | Subscribers of the
Covenant, lately | renewed, made in the high Kirk, and at the |
Mercate Crosse of Glasgow, the 28, and 29. | of November 1638. |

Printed at Glasgow by George Anderson, | in the Yeare
of Grace, 1638. |

It forms a small 4to pamphlet, signatures A, B, and it has a curious woodcut vignette on the title-page. As might be anticipated from its small size rendering its destruction easy, it is very rare, but, notwithstanding, several copies of it are extant, and it is, naturally, much in demand among Glasgow collectors. One is in the University Library, another in the Mitchell Library, and there are one or two others in private hands. Usually it is found separate, but in the Abbotsford Library it forms one of a set of pamphlets and proclamations all on the same subject. Collections of these pamphlets seem to have been formed and issued in volumes, for I have seen another set almost identical with that at Abbotsford, also containing the Glasgow Protestation. About the pamphlet itself there is nothing whatever to attract. It is a commonplace production of the century, and if we did not know its history and its rarity it would be passed by without any consideration.

6. After making a start in Glasgow, Anderson printed a number of curious books. A list of these was drawn up sixty years ago by Macvewan, a second-hand bookseller of Glasgow, in an appendix to his edition of M'Ure's history. It includes seven works by Zachary Boyd, two by the Rev. David Dickson, and, which is most unexpected, a Hebrew Grammar and Vocabulary, by Rev. John Row, a clergyman in Aberdeen. This book was printed in 1644, and was the first Hebrew grammar and Hebrew book printed in Glasgow, and was probably one of the earliest books on the language printed in Scotland.

7. Anderson died about 1648, for books were printed in Edinburgh during 1649-1652 by his heirs, and his son Andrew went on during 1654-55. In 1658 Andrew resumed printing in Glasgow, so that there is a gap of ten years in the history of the art. At all events, no book belonging to these years is recorded. In 1658 appeared the curious book on Sympathy and Antipathy, by Dr. Sylvester Rattray, of which I gave a short account in a paper on books about the Powder of Sympathy, the Weapon Salve and similar subjects, read to the Archæological Society of Glasgow in March last, and in the following years a couple of books in Gaelic and two in English.

8. Andrew Anderson was succeeded, in 1661, by Robert Sanders, who must be regarded as the most important of the early Glasgow printers, inasmuch as he exercised his art for at least thirty years, and must have produced during that time a very large amount of literature. No catalogue professing to represent even a fraction of

the books he printed has ever been made, and probably very many of his books are no longer in existence. Macvean enumerates twenty-nine pieces, but that can be but a drop from the buckets of ink that he must have consumed. From what I have myself observed, from those in the Euing collection and in the Mitchell Library, and especially from the gatherings of keen Glasgow collectors, I have little doubt that that number could be largely increased. Of those mentioned by Macvean, one is familiar with the black letter editions of Barbour's *Bruce*, 1672, Blind Harry's *Wallace*, 1665, and Sir David Lindsay's *Poems*, 1683. One of the books omitted by Macvean is *A Vindication of the Authority, Constitution, and Laws of the Church and State of Scotland*, by Gilbert Burnet, written when he was Professor of Theology in Glasgow. It was printed in a small 8vo volume, "by Robert Sanders, Printer to the City, and University," in 1673. A much rarer tract is entitled: "*The Foot out of the Snare. Or, a Restoration of the inhabitants of Zion into their Place,... Being a Brief Declaration of his entrance into that Sect. Called (by the name of) Quakers.... By me John Toldervy,... Printed at London, and reprinted at Glasgow, by Robert Sanders. Printer to the City, & University, & are to be sold in his shop, 1679.*"

One of the most interesting, however, of Sanders' publications is a black letter New Testament, printed in the year 1666. The only known copy which remains is now in the remarkable collection of Bibles, bequeathed to the University by W. Euing. In the same collection are other Testaments of dates 1670 and 1691, also by Sanders. These are the earliest portions of the Scriptures printed in Glasgow.¹

9. Sanders died, it is supposed, in 1696, and was succeeded by his son, also called Robert, who distinguished himself sometimes by the epithet "of Auldhouse," a property which he purchased from Pollok. He began to print in 1697, and continued till 1727. Duncan has said that his early works were fairly done, but the later ones were paltry. According to my observation this is correct.

Thus in 1699, was published a Darien tract, a *Letter from the Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to the . . . Scots Colony of Caledonia in America*. This is a 4to pamphlet of respectable appearance, but such treatises as Thomas Taylor's *Jacob*

¹ See Notice of the Euing Collection of Bibles, by James Lymburn, in *The Glasgow University Library*, by Professor W. P. Dickson, Glasgow, 1888, p. 78.

Wrestling, 1701; *The Stubborn Wives Warning-piece*, 1700, a leaflet; *Gesta Romanorum*, 1713; The Rev. James Durham's *Blessedness of the Death*. . . 1715; Thomas Vincent's *Explicatory Catechism*, 1719; are notable revelations of the kind of literature which was most in request, and of the form and appearance of the books with which people were content. These are all little volumes in 16mo, printed on poor paper in the most unattractive style. Only the most intense religious enthusiasm could have induced perusal or study of such repulsive and badly printed volumes.

10. As to the productions in general of the Sanders Press, there is not much to say. The books issued were for reading, for circulation among people of the middle and lower classes. The themes were mainly religious, with a sprinkling of popular poetry and romance; and the books *were* read, and read again, till they were read out of existence. The books of these printers, which I have seen, are mostly dingy little volumes, cheaply, almost shabbily got up, bound in old brown sheep-skin, smoked black, and soiled, often frayed at the edges and corners, and imperfect at the beginning or end, or both, or anywhere if a thread of the stitching as given way. But the printers knew what their customers liked and what they were able and willing to buy; people engaged in a toilsome daily struggle for existence, farmers and their hinds, tradesmen and their apprentices, had no time, or money, or inclination for sumptuous books, to say nothing of the possible belief that if anything were beautiful and attractive it savoured more or less of the satanic. If they cared to read at all they were more anxious about the truth and sound doctrine of what they read, than about the appearance of the book that contained it. They were content with anything cheap and handy; and because it was cheap they did not trouble themselves much what sort of usage the book got. It was picked up in the intervals of work, or it was pondered or slept over when the day's work was done, or it was read and the leaves turned over with hard thumbs and fingers, not always clean, sometimes wet, without care whether the book would last or not. If it did survive it was almost sure to grow imperfect, or it got so bad that it was not worth preserving. And now the books which served to instruct, and perhaps comfort or amuse some reader, careless and indifferent as to their fate, have become the treasures, carefully chosen and preserved, of some wealthy bibliophile.

11. To Sanders succeeds a long line of printers. I cannot say that they are interesting in themselves, or in the works they produced. Their names and approximate dates are given in a table

by Mr. Mason¹, and it will be better than much description simply to reprint it. This list I have not attempted to supplement, nor do I personally know more than a solitary specimen here and there of some of these printers. The Hugh Brown, who printed in 1713, got into trouble by producing a pamphlet, called *The Jacobite Curse*, and assuming the title of printer to the University. It was distinctly stated that he never was printer to the University, and that he was only employed by Donald Govan, who had a press within the University, and who ultimately was appointed its printer.

12. James and William Duncan, who follow, deserve special mention. James Duncan, according to Macvean, is described as a "letter founder in Glasgow," in 1718, and he adds that the types he used are evidently of his own making, being rudely cut and badly proportioned. Duncan, therefore, appears to have been the first type founder in Glasgow, though he had been preceded in the art, so far as Scotland is concerned, by Rae. Watson's account is that "in

¹ *Public and Private Libraries of Glasgow*, Glasgow, 1885, p. 148. The list gives the date of the earliest work of each printer contained in the Mitchell Library. Sixty-two printers are contained in the list.

Anderson, George	1638	Henderson, A. & J.	1757
Anderson, Andrew	1658	Bryce, John	1760
Sanders, Robert	1664	Smith, Robt.	1762
Hepburn, Andrew	1689	Mair, Patrick	1764
Sanders, Robert (2nd)	1697	Walker, Wm.	1767
M'Lean, Archibald	1706	Galbraith, Joseph	1768
Brown, Hugh	1713	Hutcheson, Charles	1768
Govan, Donald	1715	Duncan & Co.	1770
Duncan, J. & W.	1720	Tait, Andrew	1770
Crawford, Thomas	1721	Duncan, R. & T.	1771
Duncan, William	1726	Reid, Daniel	1772
Glasgow College (no name)	1730	Smith, Wm.	1772
Carmichael, Alex.	1731	Adam, Alex.	1773
Stalker, Andrew	1732	Chapman, Robt.	1775
Carmichael & Millar	1736	Robertson, J. & J.	1777
Millar (Alex.)	1738	Chapman & Duncan	1779
Robertson, John	1739	Bell, Wm.	1781
Robertson & M'Lean	1739	Robertson, J. & M.	1783
Urie, R. & Co.	1741	Niven, David	1785
Paton, George	1741	Duncan, James	1788
Foulis, R. & A.	1742	Miller, Ebenezer	1790
Duncan, David	1743	Reid, John	1791
Smith & Hutcheson	1745	Turner, James	1791
Hall, John	1748	Macaulay, Andr.	1792
M'Callum, John	1749	Miller, Wm.	1792
Orr, John	1750	Paton, W.	1795
Bryce & Paterson	1752	Gillies, James	1796
Knox, James	1752	Duncan, J. & A.	1796
Newlands, J.	1753	Mundell, James	1797
Duncan, Wm., Jun.	1753	Napier & Khull	1798
Marshall, W.	1755	Cameron, A.	1798

1711 Mr. Peter Rae, a presbyterian minister, set up a small house at Kirkbride, near Dumfries, which he continues going. He is an ingenious man, having made a press for his own use, and is making some advances (1713) toward the founding of letters." Books with the Kirkbride imprint are rare. I have seen only two; and the printer's name is *Robert* Rae, not *Peter*. One is: *Topica Sacra: Spiritual Logick*: . . . by Thomas Harrison. . . . Kirkbride, Printed by Robert Rae, MDCCXII. This is a small 8vo of some pretensions, for the title page is printed in black and red. The other is: *The Oath of Abjuration No Ground of Separation*. . . . Kirkbride, Printed by Robert Rae, 1713.

For a few years the two Duncans were in company, and one of their books which I have noticed is the work on the antiquities of Egypt and neighbouring nations, written in Latin, by William Jameson, who lectured on history in the University. This work is creditably printed, with a title page in black and red, and contains numerous Greek quotations, and occasional Hebrew phrases as well, showing that, even then, printing in the ancient languages could be well executed in the city.

13. After 1720 the Duncans separated. James Duncan printed a good deal, one of the first books he produced being an introduction to Hebrew and Chaldee Grammar. But the great claim James Duncan has to remembrance is his having produced the book which is most prized by Glasgow collectors, and about the size and condition of which there is nearly as much jealousy and rivalry as about a choice Elzevir. The book I refer to is the first edition of the first history of Glasgow. It is entitled: "*A View of the City of Glasgow: or, an Account of its Origin, Rise and Progress, with a more particular Description thereof than has hitherto been known*..... By John M^r Ure alias Campbel, Clerk to the Registration of Seisins, and other Evidents for the District of Glasgow. Glasgow: Printed by James Duncan Printer to the City, and are sold at his Shop, near Gibson's Wynd, in the Salt-Market Street, MDCCXXXVI."

This is not the place to speak of its excellent merit as a history, and, as it is well called, a view of the city. But as a book it is a poor one, with no beauty of typography, printed on coarse yellow paper. Having been a popular book, however, it was much read, and copies were gradually consumed, so that the difficulty now is to meet with one in satisfactory condition, clean, not cut down, and containing all the illustrations: these are—a portrait of the author, a plate of the city arms, and two views of the city, reproduced from Slezer. These are sometimes wanting, the old owners of the book having

taken them out to frame them for hanging on their walls. It is quite plain, therefore, that the Glasgow bibliophile has excellent sport in running down and securing "one of the tallest, cleanest, and best copies known" of this really rare book. M'Ure's history was reprinted in Glasgow for D. Macvane in 1830. It is a handsomely got up book, with the author's portrait reproduced, and with a number of additional views of the city. Macvane acted as editor, and added supplemental matter, and in special the sketch of Glasgow printing to which every one who engages in this subject is bound to acknowledge his indebtedness. It will form the foundation of whatever may hereafter be done for Glasgow bibliography.

14. Of William Duncan's printing may be mentioned a history of the kings of Scotland in a duodecimo volume printed in 1722, and a poem in praise of the Clyde entitled *Glotta*, printed in 1721. The author was a student, James Arbuckle, by name, who seems to have done everything but study. He wrote another poem entitled *Snuff*, printed by James Duncan, and came to loggerheads with the College Faculty about the performance of the play called 'Tamerlane.' The prologue was written by Arbuckle, and the epilogue by a Mr. Griffith. The prologue was viewed as an attack upon the Faculty, there was a great deal of feeling excited and Arbuckle wrote an account of the whole affair as seen from his point of view, in a small volume, printed at Dublin, in 1722.¹ Under the name of Hibernicus, he also wrote a series of letters afterwards to a Dublin newspaper, which were reprinted in two 8vo volumes. The *Prologue and Epilogue to Tamerlane* was printed by William Duncan, in 1721. It is a small 4to pamphlet of 8 leaves.

15. Just one hundred years after the printing of the "Protestation," the art in Glasgow underwent a very marked improvement. It was taken up by Robert Urie, who in the year 1740 had an office in Gallowgate, where he produced books which were sold by Robert Foulis. Subsequently the Foulises set up as printers also, and by the beauty of the printing, choice of authors and accuracy of text, converted the local press of what was but a small town into one of the most famous of the time, so famous that the books are everywhere known and esteemed, on the continent no less than at home.

In 1741, Urie printed the *Glasgow Journal* for Andrew Stalker, a newspaper which had been begun by that bookseller. The first newspaper of all dates from 1715. It was sold at the Printing House in Glasgow College, and was therefore probably printed by Govan.

¹ See *The Old College; Glasgow University Album* for 1869, p. 335.

It was at first called the Glasgow Courant, afterwards the name was changed to "The West Country Intelligence." Sixty-seven numbers of this very rare newspaper are preserved in the University Library. A very good specimen of Urie's work is the 1742 Terence, printed for R. Foulis, which was sold in Edinburgh by Hamilton and Balfour. It is a nice book, and it is interesting to compare it with the Terence printed at Edinburgh in 1758 by Hamilton, Balfour and Neill. Urie continued printing down to his death in 1771, so that he was contemporary with the Foulises.

16. Robert Foulis was the eldest son of Andrew Faulis and Marion Patterson, and was born at Glasgow, April 20, 1707; his brother, Andrew, was not born till Nov. 23, 1712. Robert was apprenticed to a barber, but his literary taste and ability were discovered by Dr. Francis Hutcheson, the Professor of Moral Philosophy, who advised him to become a bookseller and printer. He attended classes in the University, but not so systematically as his brother, who intended to enter the Church. Nothing definite is heard of them till 1738, when they went to Oxford and to the continent, repeating the visit to France in the following year. They profited in every way by their travels, they studied men and things, observed literature and art attentively, and made purchases of books, the best editions and copies to be had, which they sold at a profit in London on their return.

In 1741, Robert Foulis began bookselling in Glasgow, the books being printed for him by Urie. But this was only for a short time, for, after careful study of the foreign styles, he fixed upon a fount of types which were cut for him by Wilson and Baine, and he himself also studied the art of printing for a while. In the correcting for the press he was assisted by George Ross, Professor of Humanity, and James Moor, Professor of Greek; and Dr. Alexander Wilson,¹ who had begun type-founding in Camlachie, was an intimate friend.

Altogether, Foulis made a capital beginning and in 1743 he was appointed printer to the University. This same year he again visited France, looking out for books and manuscripts, partly for sale and partly for editorial purposes, and some years later, in 1751, he visited Holland on a similar errand. From papers which remain, it is evident that the book purchases were on a pretty extensive scale, and included not only current literature, but early printed books, even block books, fine and rare copies, and books of bibliographical interest, for which large prices were given, at a time when one should

¹ For a notice of him see *Trans. R. S. Edin.* vol. x. pp. 279-297.

have hardly expected that there would be any demand for them in this country. Foulis's first books, in 1741, were of the religious character then in vogue, but soon after he began to print Latin classics, and in 1744 the *immaculate* Horace was produced.

17. All this time, from 1738-9, the idea of a Fine Art Academy had been simmering in Robert Foulis's mind, which he succeeded at last in establishing. In his foreign travels he had seen how art was taught, cultivated, fostered, and he was strongly convinced that a school ought to exist in this country. The institution he founded included instruction and practice in painting, engraving, modelling and drawing, and for this work he had the use of the Faculty Hall and several rooms in the old College; and drawings are still extant of the Academy, and of the ever-famous exhibition of paintings which was held—*sub Jove frigido*—in the inner quadrangle of the old College in the High Street. The Academy, however, did not prove a success; and if its founder had but taken advice and stuck to his printing, in which he was without a rival, or if he had but observed the signs of the times, he would not have persevered in a scheme which all but ruined him. The idea was unquestionably a good one, and the subsequent foundation of Academies and Schools of Art proves that Foulis was right; but where he went wrong was in trying to carry it out in a small provincial town as Glasgow then was, for, although Glasgow has grown very much in the last century and a half, it would be difficult to found an Art Academy on the scale contemplated by Foulis even now. But, besides, the country—Scotland at least—was not ripe for such an institution, so that all one can say is that Robert Foulis was before his time in accumulating works of art, and in disseminating correct ideas about their production.

18. In 1755 a silver medal was offered by a Society in Edinburgh for the finest book of not fewer than ten sheets. This medal was won by the brothers Foulis, and the book which was sent in was their edition of Callimachus, in small folio. This is one of the best books they ever produced. The following year the medal was again conferred upon them for their third edition of Horace, and for the folio *Iliad*, certainly one of the finest classics ever printed. The greatest care possible at the time was taken to have the text correct, the typography was attended to with equal care, and it is distinguished by the absence of the contractions which were commonly used in Greek books. Uniform with the *Iliad*, in the next year, 1758, the *Odyssey* was published, and this too was awarded a medal. These books were under the special superintendence of the University, and copies were sent as presents to a number of distinguished

persons. For a considerable number of years following, the Foulises were actively engaged as printers and with the Art Academy. Some very fine specimens of books were produced, especially the editions of some of the English poets, such as Gray in 1768, in 4to, and Milton in 1770, in folio.

19. On September 18th, 1775, Andrew Foulis died very suddenly of apoplexy, and his death was a blow of the severest kind to his elder brother. He could not at once realize his loss, and he seems to have lost all heart. Some months later he removed his art collections to London, and disposed of them by auction; but they did not realize the sum he anticipated, and he returned to Edinburgh, wearied and disappointed. He was on the point of starting for Glasgow when he too died suddenly, on the 2nd of June, 1776.

20. The Foulises were not publishers in the modern sense of the term. The great bulk of their books consists of reprints of standard authors. They were pre-eminently publishers of classics, Greek and Latin, English, French and Italian. The books were printed by them repeatedly, and in various styles and sizes, but it was seldom that they produced an actually new book. They aimed, evidently, at supplying students of all kinds with the principal authors, ancient and modern, and their claims upon the attention of their customers, as upon the eagerness of later book collectors, were several. These were: the best text, which they took from MSS. and the best printed editions; the best editing, so as to have the book as correct as possible; convenient size of volume; cheapness, so as to make the books accessible to many readers; artistic appearance, so as to gratify the taste of the reader, and attract him to a perusal of the volume. While the other features of the Foulis books have become indistinct with time, this last still remains. It is the beauty of the mere books that is their chief attraction now. This artistic quality was gained sometimes by means of fine and large paper, usually by the actual typography. The Foulis books are distinguished by the absence of all extraneous ornament. There are no head or tail-pieces, no ornamental borders, no florid, or, as Watson calls them, *blooming* capitals; no decorated title-pages, not even a printer's device: none of the luxurious attractions of the contemporary French press. There is nothing but absolutely plain printing, and the effects are produced by the shapes of the letters, by the proportion of the type to the size of the page, by the width of the lines, by the quality and size of the paper (for the Foulises were not ignorant of the merit of large and fine paper), and by similar purely typographical details. There are few printers who have produced such a long

series of elegant books, and who have attained their results by such legitimate methods.

21. The sizes mostly affected are small 4to and small 8vo, but there is a series of English poets in 18mo, and there are the miniature editions of Pindar and Anacreon in 32mo. In folio are Homer, Callimachus, and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, which have become rare, and are much coveted by Glasgow collectors.

22. As examples of attractive books may be mentioned the 4to Sophocles of 1745; Lucretius, 1749; *The Clouds* of Aristophanes, 1755, 4to; the translation of Hierocles, 1756; Horace, 1760; the remains of Tyrtaeus, 1759, edited, it is said, by Professor Moor, and inscribed "to the Young Gentlemen; lately, bred at the University of Glasgow; at present, serving their Country, as Officers of the Highland Battalions now in America." It contains two engravings of the head of Hercules, one of which, having been inverted in printing, confers a bibliomaniacal interest on the book as well. The fact is, however, that to form any notion of the extent and variety and style of the Foulis press work one must inspect a collection of the books, an opportunity of doing which can be had both at the University and in the Mitchell Library. There are several Foulis collectors in Glasgow, and one private collection I know of great extent and beauty.

23. As usually met with, Foulis books are bound in substantial old smooth calf, which seems very appropriate to the working character of the books. But they are also to be met with occasionally in paper covers, uncut. The printers themselves seem to have considered that the most valuable state, for a series of their books in this condition was presented to their friend Dr. William Hunter, in whose library at the University they still exist.

24. When it is remembered that they printed from 1741 to 1776, the number of books they issued will not seem excessive. In Duncan's catalogue there are 516 numbered works and editions, and the most productive years were 1750-53. I should think that the greater proportion of these works are to be found in Glasgow in some library or another. In the new edition of Duncan's *Notices and Documents* (1886) considerable additions have been made to his list, but even these, I should think, do not yet exhaust all the books printed by the Foulises. The improvements in printing introduced by the Foulises did not disappear after they had passed away. Their office was continued by the younger Andrew Foulis, who carried on the printing in the same style, and whose books are not inferior to those produced by the older firm. The folio Virgil is quite entitled to go along with the

older folio editions, and the large paper 8vo Cicero *De Officiis* and the 8vo Virgil, both printed in the year 1784, are very elegant books. The success of the Foulises was so great that a number of persons began printing in Glasgow. Some of these continued the Foulis tradition, and imitated them in their type and care to have the book correct. Others went back to the coarser, and, I presume, cheaper style of the older printers, and brought out books devoid of merit. But among the printers down to the beginning of this century there was no one of outstanding ability who stamped his own individuality upon the books. There was a good deal of reprinting done, for the people appear to have cared only for a few well known authors whom they studied assiduously, and to have discouraged any new authors, or novelties. One can surmise from this that the reading public were led by authority largely, accepted the views of distinguished men without criticism, and probably did not weary themselves with the labour of doubting and thinking.

25. I may mention one or two books by some of the later printers.

The adventures of Sig. Gaudenzio di Lucca was printed in inferior style by James Knox in 1765. In the same year *A Fair and Impartial Testimony* about Secession in the Church was printed for John Finlay Wright in Shuttle Street. This too was an inferior production in the earlier shabby style. The Rev. David Dickson's *Truth's Victory over Error* was re-issued by John Bryce in 1772. This edition contained a reprint of the poem "True Christian Love" referred to above (§ 2).

In 1777 Robt. Chapman and Alexander Duncan printed Gibson's *History of Glasgow*. It forms an octavo volume, and contains a plan of the city, which makes the book sought after.

The History of Rutherglen and East Kilbride, by the Rev. David Ure, was printed at Glasgow in 1793 by David Niven. From the literary side this is an admirable work; it is one of the best and most comprehensive local histories of its time, and it is still quoted as an authority upon the antiquities, geology and natural history of the district. But as a book it is quite as good; it is carefully and rather elegantly printed, and it contains maps, views and some important plates of fossils.

Another history of Glasgow was written by Andrew Brown. The first volume was printed at Glasgow by William Paton in 1795; the second volume was printed at Edinburgh in 1797. This is not a book of any pretensions to beauty: the paper is of different colours, and the type is common-place.

Another book, *The Works of the Rev. Wm. Thom*, printed in 1799 for James Dymock, bookseller, High Street, was no better than these.

The example, therefore, set by the Foulises was not universally followed. Chapman and Lang, however, endeavoured to do so to a certain extent. In the last year of the century, in 1800, they produced an edition of Robt. Fergusson's *Poetical Works*, under the supervision of David Irving. This edition is readable, but it is hardly on the level of their models.

26. With 1801 the history of the older printing may stop, but one or two books of the earlier years of the century may be mentioned. In 1801 an edition of Burns' *Poems*, uniform with Robt. Fergusson's, was printed by Chapman and Lang; and in the same year another inferior edition was printed by Thomas Duncan. Both editions, Duncan's in particular, are said to be very rare. R. Chapman was printing by himself shortly after this, and he continued to be one of the chief printers in Glasgow for some years. His style of printing gradually became modernised, the long s was given up, and the type became rounder and fuller. Among the books printed by him may be mentioned Denholm's *History of Glasgow*, with fifteen engravings, 1804; *Wallace, or the Vale of Ellerslie*, a poem by John Finlay, 1806; *The Picture of Glasgow*, 1812; third edition, 1818, with maps and illustrations.

At this time Andrew Duncan was printer to the University, but his date is beyond the limit I have prescribed to myself in these notes.

27. Since then, printing in Glasgow has progressed, but nothing has ever been done to rival the results attained by the Foulis press. The works produced by it are quite entitled to take rank with the Aldines, Elzevirs, Bodonis, Baskervilles, which are all justly renowned for the varied excellences they possess, but no provincial, and certainly no metropolitan, press in this country has ever surpassed that of the two brothers.

28. Enough has been said to inform anyone not directly interested in Glasgow printing of its general scope and features. But this may be a suitable occasion for putting a practical conclusion before those who are interested in it, and who do not require to be told about its history. The conclusion is this: The time has come for compiling a catalogue of Glasgow printed books, down to a certain date, say from 1638 to 1776, or even to 1801. Aberdeen, through the skill and energy of Mr. Edmond, has been put in possession of a bibliography of its early printed books, from 1620 to 1736. A beginning of a catalogue has been made for Glasgow by the skeleton list of

the Foulis books, compiled by Duncan. That, however, is only a small part. There are all the books of the preceding century, of which there must be a very good representation in Glasgow. There are few places, I should suppose, where there are more watchful, skilful and energetic local collectors than here, and if the titles of the books and pamphlets in all their gatherings were properly described, Glasgow would show a very important catalogue. More than that, they would throw a strong light on the reading tastes of the city and country, and would illustrate the history of the place and the people, for although there are a good many histories of Glasgow already, the ephemeral literature has not yet been utilized. No one knows what there is or where to get it, so that a catalogue of it is the first requisite.

29. Such a catalogue could only be compiled now on a general plan, by a division of labour, and by the owners of Glasgow books sending the descriptions to an editorial committee, which would arrange and publish the titles. From what experience has shown me in quite other sections of bibliography, very unexpected results would be obtained. Many isolated tracts and books would acquire importance and significance by juxtaposition, and incidentally biography and history would receive fresh illustration.

30. There are, let us hope, some among Glasgow collectors and book-lovers who are willing to initiate a scheme for a Glasgow catalogue, which, though primarily of local interest, is in reality a chapter in the history of literature and books in the whole country, and one section of a general catalogue of books printed in Britain.

JOHN FERGUSON.



A Dynasty of Librarians.

THE greatest library in the world is, as every one knows, that which has been successively called the *Bibliothèque du Roi*, then the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, then *Impériale*, then *Royale*, then *Nationale* again, then *Impériale* again, and now once more, but for how long we know not, *Nationale*. For the number of its volumes it is without a rival (indeed, its actual contents are so vast that portions of them are almost *terre incognita*, even to the zealous, learned, and accomplished librarians to whose charge it is committed). But it is not so well known that, for a century and a half, it was almost uninterruptedly ruled by the members of a single family, who formed a dynasty of librarians without parallel in the history of libraries.

From the accession of Jérôme I in 1642 to the death of Jean Frédéric in 1783, the Bignon family reigned supreme in the *Bibliothèque du Roi*, so that, in a report to the *Assemblée Nationale* in 1795, M. Villiers referred to the library as having been "réservée à quelques familles privilégiées dont elle sembloit être l'héritage."

During the sixteenth century, and the first half of the seventeenth, while the actual duties of librarian were performed by the *Garde de la librairie*, the supreme charge of the library was generally entrusted to a high official styled *Maître de la librairie*, and among those who held these offices we find the greatest names in the literary history of France. In 1500 the most distinguished Greek scholar on this side the Alps, in whose veins flowed the blood of three emperors—the celebrated Jean Lascaris—was appointed to the office of *Garde de la librairie*. In 1530 the more distinguished post of *Maître* was constituted, and no less a person than Guillaume Budé (Budæus) appointed to fill it. Le Fèvre d'Étaples and Mellin de Saint-Gelais successively served under him as *Gardes*. The successors of Budæus were Pierre du Châtel, Pierre de Mondoré, Jacques Amyot, J. A. de Thou, and François de Thou. It was during the mastership of J. A. de Thou that Casaubon held the office of *Garde de la librairie*, and had the actual charge of the books. In 1642 François de Thou perished on the scaffold, and was succeeded by Jérôme Bignon, the founder of the dynasty, and one of the most remarkable men of his time. His first work was published at the age of ten, and we find him shortly afterwards engaged in friendly correspondence with all the most learned men of the day, among others Scaliger, Casaubon, Grotius, Pithou, de Thou, and Cardinal du Perron. Before he was twenty

he was the author of numerous works, and according to one of his biographers he had then read everything and remembered everything that he had read! Devoting himself to jurisprudence, he achieved great success at the bar, and attained the position of King's Advocate in the Parliament of Paris. His learning acquired for him the title of the French Varro, but none of his books have lived, or seem in any way adequate to his great reputation. He died in 1656 leaving, as Voltaire remarks, "rather a great name than great works." His epitaph (which will be found in *Chaufepié*) describes him as "*sui seculi amor, decus, exemplum, miraculum.*" His appointment as *Maître de la librairie*, according to Nicéron, was owing to his reputation as a lover of literature, so that Richelieu who was not personally well affected towards him, felt bound to nominate him to an office for which the public had already designated him in advance. The number of the volumes of the *Bibliothèque du Roi* at his accession amounted to no more than 6,000 volumes. In 1651 Jérôme I resigned his office in favour of his son Jérôme II, whom Louis XIV appointed as his successor, and who reigned until his death in 1672, when he was succeeded in his turn by his son, Jérôme III. Jérôme III seems to have been somewhat of a *Roi saintant*, and during his reign, as well as during the latter part of that of his father, the affairs of the library were administered by members of the family of the great minister Colbert, and under his supervision. Upon Colbert's death, in 1683, the Marquis de Louvois assumed the direction of the library and induced Jérôme III to resign the office of *Maître*, and Louis Colbert that of *Garde*, both of which were conferred at the instance of the minister, with the title of *Bibliothécaire du Roi*, on his son Camille, then a boy of only nine years of age. Camille Le Tellier, known as the Abbé de Louvois, who, according to the well-known *Chanson*, expected to become a Cardinal, but died only "Curé de Châville," proved an excellent administrator, and retained the office until his death in 1718. When this event occurred the sceptre returned to the Bignon dynasty, as to its rightful holders, in the person of the Abbé Jean Paul Bignon, sometimes referred to as "Bignon IV," younger son of Jérôme II and the inheritor of his magnificent private library. The patent of 15th September, 1719, by which the office of *Bibliothécaire du Roi* was conferred on the Abbé Bignon, recognises, as it were, his hereditary right to the office, for, after enumerating his own personal qualifications, it proceeds to speak of "la satisfaction que nous trouvons à rendre en cette occasion un honneur dû à la mémoire de ses pères, en confiant à un de leurs descendants, le soin d'une bibliothèque qui a si longtemps

été entre leurs mains, pendant le siècle passé, et qu'ils ont enrichie du fruit de leurs veilles."*

The Abbé showed himself a most efficient librarian, and the library was completely remodelled under his direction. His first step was to prepare a complete inventory of the library and of all its possessions—a task which occupied fifteen months, and he then proceeded to its reorganisation, dividing it into departments. I. Manuscripts. II. Printed Books. III. Charters and Genealogies. IV. Prints. V. Medals. Each had its own special keeper and assistants.

But the Abbé Bignon was not content with reorganising the library; he devoted himself, with the greatest energy, to increasing its contents. The MSS. of Baluze—a thousand in number—the eight hundred Chinese books brought by the French missionaries, the sixty thousand pamphlets given by Morel de Thoisy; and the MSS. of the President de Mesmes, were but a portion of the acquisitions of the library during his reign, and most of them were due to his personal exertions. And it was to him that the mission to Constantinople of the Abbés Sevin and Fourmont, from which so much was expected, but which had so singular a result,† was due. But perhaps the most signal facts of his administration were the removal of the library to its present *locale* in the Rue de Richelieu, and the opening of it for the first time to the public.

The readers of Mr. Pattison's Essay on Scaliger, and his life of Casaubon, will remember how jealously, a century and a quarter earlier, Gosselin, then *Garde de la librairie*, watched over the treasures committed to his charge, and how unwilling he was to allow access to them, even to men of learning like the two great scholars. It was not until 1720 that the doors of the library were opened as matter of right, even to men of letters. In that year the Abbé Bignon obtained a decree from the Council of State, declaring the library open to "les scavans de toutes les Nations" at such times as the librarian should appoint, and to the public once a week, from eleven to one o'clock. But this decree was not carried out; the library was closed to the public for fifteen years longer, and it was not until 1735 that the exertions of the Abbé were successful, and that the library was opened to the public from eleven to one o'clock on Wednesdays and Fridays. This continued to be the rule during the remainder of the eighteenth century.

* *Precis de l'Histoire de la Bibliothèque du Roi*, par Alfred Franklin, p. 212.

† See Quarterly Review, October, 1885, pp. 503-530.

Nor was the Abbé less an enlightened bibliophile than an energetic librarian. He had inherited the magnificent library—sixty thousand volumes—of his father and grandfather. It occupied the upper part of his house in the Rue des Bernardins and, unlike the libraries of some collectors, was easy of access to all students and men of learning. But, on being appointed to the office of librarian, he presented to the Royal Library all his Oriental books and sold the rest, in order that he might give his whole mind to his public duties, and that care for his private library might not interfere with his attention to the great national collection entrusted to him.*

In 1741, being eighty years of age, the Abbé Bignon resigned his office, and was succeeded by his nephew Bignon de Blanz. He had held the office of *Bibliothécaire du Roi* for two years only when he died, and his brother, Armand Jérôme Bignon, was appointed in his place. Of these two brothers but little is recorded in connection with the library. Though Armand Jérôme, like his uncle, was a Member of the Academy, neither he nor his predecessor left his mark on the great institution which they successively administered, but, as they faithfully carried out the rules and principles which their predecessors had laid down, the contents of the library greatly increased under their rule.

A sinister reputation, however, has attached itself to the name of Armand Jérôme Bignon. He had the misfortune to hold the office of *Prévôt des Marchands* at the time of the marriage of the Dauphin (Louis XVI) with Marie Antoinette, and the terrible accidents in connection with the display of fireworks on that occasion, which cost the lives of more than three hundred persons, were attributed to his negligence. As he was visited with no punishment for his carelessness, Paris avenged itself by *bons-mots*. An (imperfect) anagram was formed out of his name—Armand Jérôme Bignon, *Ibi non rem sed damna gero*.

In 1772 Armand Jérôme died, and was succeeded by his son Jean Frédéric, the last of the dynasty, who held office until the eve of the Revolution. His administration was marked by a reorganisation of the arrangements for the delivery to the library of a copy of each book printed in France, by the acquisition of the large collection of medals (32,000) of Joseph Pellerin, of the MSS. of Capperonier, and of the eight thousand charters and deeds of Jault. Jean Frédéric resigned in 1782 (or 1783), and died soon after. With

* Most collectors possess volumes from this library with the somewhat ugly stamp impressed on the sides—a shield bearing the words *Bibliothec Bignon*.

his resignation the sceptre departed from the house of Bignon, and the reign of this family over the *Bibliothèque* came to an end. Their 140 years of power had seen the growth of the library, from the 6,000 volumes of which it consisted on the accession of Jérôme I in 1642, to the 152,868 volumes which we are told it possessed shortly after the resignation of the last librarian of this distinguished family.

RICHARD C. CHRISTIE.



A New English XV Century Printer.

No bibliographers, who have written on the history of printing in England, date the commencement of Julian Notary's career as a printer earlier than 1498, in which year appeared his edition of the Sarum Missal, the first edition printed in England. Within the last few years, however, new discoveries have been made, by means of which, we can not only place the foundation of this office at an earlier date, but are made acquainted with a new printer, so far unknown in the history of English XV century printing.

The first book, of which I know two copies only at present, one in the Bodleian [4to, C. 1. Art. Seld.] and the other in the Cambridge University Library [Dd, 2, 30. 7], may be described as follows.

- Title.* ¶ Questiones Alberti de modis significandi.
- Colophon.* ¶ Questiones magistri Alberti de modis significandi noviter impressæ London apud sanctū thomā apostolū expliciūt feliciter.
- Collation.* a-f⁸ g. h⁶ = 60 unnumbered leaves
30 lines to a page, with headlines.

The second, of which, at present, only a fragment is known, luckily containing the colophon, was purchased at many times its weight in gold by the Bodleian in 1885.

It had every appearance of having been obtained from an old binding when first bought, being in a very tender condition and slightly stained; it has since been repaired and bound, losing the signature of the sheet in the operation. It consists of the last sheet, r, of a Sarum Horæ of 21 lines to the page, with very neat woodcut borders, of the kind common in all foreign printed service books, but of a design which must be of uncommon occurrence, as an examination of most of the service books in the Bodleian failed to produce anything exactly similar; the backgrounds of dotted work being neater and clearer than usual. Some, if not all, of these borders occur in the Notary Horæ (c. 1503?), showing the connection of the two offices, the present at the sign of St. Thomas, and Notary's later one at the sign of the "Three Kynges." [Duke of Devonshire's Library.]

- Colophon.* Hore beate marie scdm ufuz Sar
diligetur emēdace ac novit impressē
Londōi. apud sanctū Thomam apo
stolu pro winando de worde expliciūt
feliciter. Anno dñi mille^o cccc^o nonas
ge^o vii^o tercia die mensis aprilis.

On the same page as the colophon, in both these books, occurs the printer's device, in the former in black, in the latter in red, and is the same as that used by Notary, with this important exception, that, whereas in Notary's device his name, in a Latin form, occurs in the lower half of the device; in these the lower half is occupied by the initials I. H., and the upper half by the initials I N B, the I N being in the form of a monogram and not distinct. In 1498 this same block was used on the title page of the Sarum Missal, but with this change, that the initials I H, with part of the frame of the device, had been cut away; and it finally is used by Notary, with the I N B cut out, and his own name in the space formerly occupied by I H.

Now, from the above colophons and devices, we learn two entirely new facts, one, that there was a printing office at the sign of St. Thomas the Apostle, and, secondly, that there was a printer in England with the initials I. H. Who was he?

About 1490 the first signs of French influence upon the English press were to be found in the fount of type, cut about that date for Caxton. Pynson, who commenced printing soon after [1493], was not only himself a Norman, but employed foreign presses to work for him, as also did Wynkyn de Worde. Notary, himself, was a Frenchman, Jean Barbier, one of the workmen who came with him, also a Frenchman, so it is quite reasonable to surmise that I H was one of their countrymen. There are two foreign printers connected with the English trade, whose names agree with these initials I. Hertzog de Landoia, who printed the two Sarum Missals of 1494, at Venice, and I. Huvin, of Rouen, who was also connected with the production of Sarum Missals. Besides these there is the little-known bookseller and stationer, who managed the printing of the Hereford Breviary of 1505—Inghelbert Haghe. As to the first of these, I. Hertzog, it is almost impossible that he should be the man, since we find him printing in Venice in 1497. I. Huvin has much stronger claims. He was, as M. Frère tells us, vaguely, in a footnote, a bookbinder and printer at Rouen, from 1490, but about these early years we have little or no information; we find him, in 1500 and 1501, at work on books for sale in England, and he seems to have continued working at Rouen for a good number of years.

Of Inghelbert Haghe we know nothing, except what we learn from the introduction to the Hereford Breviary, unless, indeed, he be the same man as is mentioned in a note on some fragments in the Bodleian, which have, at some time or another, formed the fly-leaves of a book (I have filled out the abbreviations.) "*Dedi bibliopole herfordensi Ingleberto nuncupato pro isto et sex reliquis libris biblie*

xliii^s iiij^d quos emi ludlowie anno domini incarnationis millesimo quingentesimo decimo circiter die nundinarum lichefeldensium." [I gave the Hereford bookseller called Inglebert for this and the other six books of the bible, xliii^s iiij^d which I bought at Ludlow in the year of our Lords incarnation 1510 about the day of the Lichfield fair"] Inglebert Haghe was under the protection and patronage of Margaret, Countess of Richmond, as also was W. de Worde, which might form a connection between them. But, in any case, we have hardly any grounds for connecting the latter with the unknown I. H. Certainly, the most probable printer to whom the initials could refer is Huvin, there are many probabilities in his favour, and very little to be said against him, and, whilst the enigma must, of necessity, remain for the present unsolved, there can be little doubt that Jean Huvin is the nearest guess to be made.

The other initials stand, undoubtedly, for Jean Barbier, for we find his name in the colophon of the 1498 Missal. La Caille gives some account of him, which, though in many instances inaccurate, is still very valuable, especially when we consider the time when it was written [1689]. Barbier appears in Paris at the beginning of the sixteenth century, and became a most prolific printer, printing many works for Denis Roce, Pierre Bacquelier, J. Petit, Poncet Lepreux, J. Frellon, F. Regnault, and many others, too numerous to mention, of the leading publishers of Paris. He seems to have stopped printing about 1514, and we have no evidence of his existence before 1498, so that his career, though most productive, was short.

The book trade with France, which grew up so suddenly about the last years of the XVth century and the early part of the XVIth, has never been yet examined with any care, and even the materials collected by Herbert, in his third volume, are, to most people, little known, on account of the vague way in which they are collected and noted; but it is in this close connection between the two countries that we must seek for the explanation of many bibliographical problems. By 1496 there were already established in London agents for French presses, amongst others Nicholas Lecomte, for whom Hopyl printed in 1493 and 1494, and F. and P. Egmont. Liturgical books had, of course, to be printed, in general, abroad, as few presses in England had enough ornamental letters, woodcuts or borders, to produce anything which could compete with foreign work; in fact, during the three or four years on either side of 1500, the English printers were almost entirely dependent on abroad, either for books themselves, or materials to produce them. With regard to Notary himself, it has always been considered very doubtful whether or not

he printed his 1498 Missal in England. The colophon expressly states so, but many authors have considered the very foreign appearance of the work enough to justify their unbelief in its statement, and, though these authorities are almost certainly wrong as to the place, they are as certainly right as regards the source of the printing material employed. The probable explanation is that Notary, thinking to make an excellent speculation, brought with him from abroad, not only material for printing service books, but assistants skilled in the work, very probably at the invitation of W. de Worde, for whom the 1497 *Horæ* was produced, and the manner in which this book is printed shows that skilled workmen were employed upon it.

The last question is, was Julian Notary in the office at the sign of St. Thomas? Or, to put it in another way, does the monogram I N and the initial B in the device stand for Julian Notary and Jean Barbier, or for Jean Barbier alone. I am inclined to think that it stands for Barbier alone, and that when I H left the business in 1498, Barbier joined Notary. We can, of course, judge very little about the type of the *Horæ* from so small a fragment, but as far as can be seen a larger selection and variety are to be observed in 1498, than were to be found in either of the earlier books; this may be accounted for, however, by the nature of the book. Notary again almost always signs his books, and the French form *Notaire* of the Missal, altered soon after to the English form Notary, would imply that he had but lately come to this country.

Again, the two early books have in their colophons the information that they were printed at the sign of St. Thomas the Apostle, but no particular locality is mentioned. The Missal was printed at Westminster, but no sign is mentioned. It is probable that it was in Kynge-street, where we find Notary living till 1503, when he goes to the sign of the Three Kings, Pynson's old house, outside Temple Bar. Of course this must all be, more or less, guess work at present, a most dangerous element in bibliography, but there must be plenty yet to be discovered, and I hope this note may be a step in the direction. Bradshaw knew of I H only from the colophon of the *Albertus*, having never seen the *Horæ*, but, unfortunately, he has left us nothing about him in print, beyond the mere fact of his existence, though perhaps when his MS. notes are sorted—and let us earnestly hope published—something may be found on the subject, which will bring us out of our present dark state of ignorance upon this hitherto unknown English XV century printer, I H.

E. GORDON DUFF.

The Livy of Pope Alexander the Sixth.

ONE of the most interesting books exhibited in the King's Library at the British Museum is the Grenville copy of the *editio princeps* of Livy, printed at Rome by Sweynheym and Pannartz, as usually supposed, in 1469. This copy is doubly remarkable, as the only one known to exist upon vellum, and as bearing the arms of the Borgia family beautifully painted on the first page of the text. Cardinal Roderigo Borgia, afterwards famous as Pope Alexander the Sixth, having been Abbot of the Monastery of Subiaco, where the first productions of Sweynheym and Pannartz's press were executed, it was naturally inferred that he had held this dignity in 1469, and that the book had been presented to him on that account. A statement to this effect, written by Mr. Grenville, till recently appeared in the handbook to the books exhibited in the King's Library. It was removed on the present writer's observation of its inconsistency with the statement of the contemporary diarist, Stephano Infessura (apud Eckhardum, *Corpus Historicum Medii Aevi*, tom. 2) that the abbey had been conferred upon Cardinal Borgia by Pope Sixtus IV immediately after his election on August 9, 1471, "Lo Vice Cancelliere hebbe la abbadia di Subiaco." Borgia accordingly could not have been Abbot before that date, and the book was evidently printed during the pontificate of Sixtus's predecessor Paul the Second, being dedicated to this Pope. At this time the writer had no access to any history of the Abbey of Subiaco, by which the statement of Infessura could be corroborated or disproved. The Museum, however, has very recently acquired a valuable book, "*Memorie di Subiaco e sua badia, raccolte dal Canonico Jannuccelli*," Genova, 1856. Jannuccelli, who seems unacquainted with the testimony of Infessura, confirms it by a citation from an old MS. chronicle of the monastery, and decisively proves that Borgia cannot have been Abbot in 1469, by producing a bull of Pope Paul the Second, dated in 1470, by which it appears that the abbot's chair had then been vacant for four years. It is evident, therefore, that Cardinal Borgia's possession of the Abbey was a mere coincidence, and had nothing to do with his ownership of this magnificent volume, which must nevertheless in all probability have been executed for him, as there would otherwise have been some indication of a former possessor, who could only have been a person of great distinction. The fact is of interest as indicating that he was a more liberal patron of literature and scholarship than usually

supposed, since the book can no longer be regarded in the light of a merely official presentation. It should be added that he was a good abbot, restoring the castle of the monastery at his own expense, and granting his vassals the privilege of holding a market on Saturdays, which their descendants enjoy to this day. Finally, in connection with his apparent interest in Livy, it may not be amiss to remark that the character of him by Raphael Volaterranus, which has formed the basis of most subsequent estimates, is evidently imitated from Livy's character of Hannibal.

The splendid volume which forms the subject of this paper has been successively in the possession of the Benedictine Library at Milan, of the Abate Canonici, of Edwards the bookseller, of Sir Mark Sykes, of Mr. Dent, of Messrs. Payne and Foss, and of Mr. Grenville. It brought at Edwards's sale no less than £903.

R. GARNETT.

Of Librarians. II.

THE THEORETICAL LIBRARIAN.

YOUR theoretical librarian is an optimistic philosopher, and if you will but believe him salvation cometh neither from the east nor from the west, but out of libraries. "Not by their deeds, but by their books shall ye know them," quoth he, and he firmly believeth that the true millennium will only begin when every parish hath its library and its librarian. Nor is he careful to conceal that, in his opinion, it were no great loss if the church did duty for the one, and the parson made way for the other.

He loveth statistics, and if his library receiveth a crown he grudgeth not to spend one half in compiling mystick tables and schedules to show how the other was laid out. If words be taken in fines he disdaineth to account for it thus simply, and many pages of fair paper and much good ink will be employed to set forth in just proportion the quota of the butcher, the baker, and perchance of the candlestick-maker.

He is a mighty compiler of catalogues and bibliographies *in the clouds*. As other men rear great castles out of the smoke of their own brains, your theoretical librarian is ever laying plans for a great schematic work that will bring him much repute and will be to him as a monument for all time. It is naught to him that the least of his fancy-bred undertakings must needs be the work of a company of

scholars—he will talk valiantly of doing single-handed the work of a score, and may even *begin*. But forbear of your charity to hail him with untimely questionings as to the progress of his *Magnum Opus*. It were but brute kindness to challenge him with such queries as “How prospereth the *Bibliography of Brobdignag*?” or, “When goeth the *Schemata Scientifica Laputensia* to the printers?”

He hath read much, but vaguely, and his learning is as the wealth of a miser who cannot remember where his treasure was bestowed. He can speak of many things cloudily, and will quote “So-and-so said somewhere,” but forbear to ask for chapter and verse if you would not wound a worthy soul.

He is so busy in devising yet another perfect plan for the ordering of his books that he hath no time to set them in their places, and though a book sought for may by good hap be *discovered*, it is never *found*.

He is the natural prey of a knavish tradesman, and if his tempter be but glib enough and have wealth of fine phrases, he will persuade our theoretic friend to bind his books in the new patent covering, with a warranty that they will endure *till his knaveship have a newer ware to dispose of*.

THEOPHRASTUS JUNIOR.

Conference of Metropolitan Public Libraries Commissioners.

THIS Conference took place on Wednesday, 20th February last, in the Town Hall, Chelsea, Mr. G. W. Osborn, Chairman of the Chelsea Commissioners, presiding. Representatives were present from the parishes of Battersea, Chelsea, Clapham, Fulham, Clerkenwell, Kensington, Hammersmith, Lambeth, Putney, Rotherhithe, Southwark, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and Wandsworth. The difficulties already met with in the working of the Acts in London, even in parishes where they have only just been adopted, caused those attending the conference to readily endorse the expression of opinion of an eminent Q.C., present, “that as a lawyer he had never met with Acts so badly drawn.”

The subject set down first on the agenda was the collection of the rate, and the resolutions thereon were to the effect:—1. That the library rate should be collected as a part of the poor rate; 2. That it should be levied, if practicable, in two moieties; 3. That it should be collected by the usual rating authority, and that the vestry should

have no power to regulate the amount after the decision of the rate-payers: vestries having now full power to reduce the rate to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. even if liabilities have been incurred to the amount of a 1d. rate; 4. That the cost of collecting the library rate should be borne by the poor rate.

The necessity of making it absolute law and not a matter of local favour, to have public libraries exempt from local taxation, under the Act of 6 and 7 Vic., cap. 36, met with unanimous approval, as did the proposal to secure the amendment of the unnecessary law requiring vestries to sanction loans for library purposes, in addition to the sanction of the Local Government Board.

Points bearing upon the adoption of the Acts were discussed, and the conclusions come to were, that the holding of a meeting, for the purpose of ascertaining the opinions of the ratepayers upon the question, was most unsatisfactory, and that a poll only should be allowed; that the cost of polling should be borne by the general rate, even if the Acts were adopted, as in the case of their rejection; that the meaning of a "majority" should be clearly stated as a majority of those polling, and not of the whole body of ratepayers; that the Local Government Board should prescribe from time to time forms of requisition and voting papers; and that the amount proposed to be levied (under the maximum of 1d.) should be clearly stated thereon.

All connected with the English public libraries will grant the need for embodying sec. 14 of the Act (Scotland) of 1871 (34-35 Vic. cap. 59) with the English Acts, and thus legalize a general custom which is open to be questioned, and the conference wisely resolved on endeavouring to have this accomplished.

The methods of electing library commissioners and of determining their retirement; their relation to the new polytechnics and to technical education generally; the desirability of a union of London parishes for library purposes; and the old question, so often raised with such little result, of the free acquisition of Government publications by public libraries, were, among other matters, considered; and in addition, it was decided to have parliament moved for a new return of free libraries and their work, the last being about 1877.

The conference, which was undoubtedly a most necessary and satisfactory one, adjourned after arranging for a permanent committee, upon which all Metropolitan libraries would be represented, to endeavour to carry out the recommendations adopted by moving the proper authorities, and so try to secure the sorely-needed Public Libraries Consolidation Act.

Settings.

Can a librarian be a poet—or, rather, can a poet make a good librarian? We should be inclined to answer with an emphatic "No," had we not proof to the contrary in the person of Mr. Albert J. Edmunds, Librarian of Haverford College (Pa.) We know something of his work as a librarian, and of his poems it is perhaps enough to say that they have received the approval of such a trinity as Ruskin, Edwin Arnold, and Walt Whitman. Mr. Edmunds is an Englishman, and, we believe, a Londoner, of Quaker descent. We hope before long to notice a volume of his poetry.

The humours of cataloguing.—From the catalogue of a Midland Bibliopole we cull these flowers: "Lodger's Portraits," described very properly as "unique"; Walton's "Lines of Doone"; "The Imperial Dictionary" by "Oglirie," with "new phrases" is a work which "no gentleman never should be without"; the "Brig-a-Brag Hunter, with a protographic frontispiece." The compiler offers these rarities under the very shadow of a well-known Grammar School.

"Fetch me instantly the *Fairport Almanack*," cried Mr. Jonathan Oldenbuck, but we doubt very much if there was such a thing to be had at the time. However, thanks to Messrs. Brodie and Salmond, there is one now. (*Arbroath Year Book and Fairport Almanack*, 1889. Arbroath: 12mo. pp. [36]), and a very good one it seems to be. We are reminded in the calendar of local events of the death of the librarian of the town—Mr. Mason—that this is the native town of the librarian of St. Martin-in-the-Fields; and that it is also the scene of his story "Adam Dickson," which we lately reviewed in these pages.

A salutary rule has been promulgated at the British Museum. The principal librarian has decreed that "readers cannot, as a rule, be supplied with novels within five years of publication, and every reader requiring for special purposes to consult a recent novel must state his reasons in writing."

A correspondent of the *Scotsman*, complaining of the action of the Girvan Free Library Committee in denying the full benefits of the M'Kechie Reading Room and Library to the poorer portion of the community, by prohibiting the borrowing of books except on condition that every borrower pays five shillings a year, draws attention to "a very ancient and very curious parallel case of unwillingness to extend the benefits of a library, and what came of it." In the of *Feilire* Aengus the Cèill De, a book written in the Erse language, we read of a certain Longarad, the white-legged, in the north of Ossory, "To him came Colum-Cille on a visit, and he (Longarad) concealed his books from him, and Colum-Cille left a 'word' (of imprecation) on his books, *i.e.*, 'May it not be of avail after thee,' said he, 'that for which thou hast shown inhospitality,' and this is what has been fulfilled, for the books exist still, and no man reads them."

In the *Tablet* Mr. Edward Peacock, a well-known name among antiquaries, puts forth a plea for books for the library of the Catholic University of America. The library does not yet exist "but such an institution," he says "ought to have a grand collection of books."

The *Athenæum* reports a most interesting discovery, made by Mr. James Weale. Whilst searching for materials for his forthcoming work on bookbinders and bookbinding at the Public Record Office, he had an opportunity of inspecting the ancient binding of the smaller "Black Book of the Exchequer," and noticed that two stamps had been used to decorate the leather covers. During his researches elsewhere he ascertained that these stamps belonged to William Caxton, clearly proving that this valuable volume had been bound or rebound by the famous printer. It is not known that the original stamps are extant, but the payment for the binding should certainly be recorded on the Exchequer issue rolls. One thing at least is evident from the foregoing, and that is that the greatest care should be exercised in dealing with old book covers, and that no one but an expert should be allowed to break up any ancient binding in order to ascertain the composition of the covers.

Temple Bar for March will contain articles on Rabelais, and Leech's Bottle.

New editions made easy! The newest edition of an educational work is the one that is wanted. If an enterprising bookseller is over-stocked with such a book, and a new edition is announced, a good and economical plan (as the cookery books say) is to remove the original title-pages and insert fresh ones bearing the name of the latest edition. If the bookseller is a man of courage, he may even outdo the publisher by putting on his new title-page the number of a later edition than the latest. We have before us an interesting example of this excellent plan. The twenty-first edition of a well-known German Grammar, published in London, has had its title replaced by one printed "twenty-fourth edition." The latest *bona fide* edition is the twenty-second. *Verb. sap.*

On the recommendation of the Syndics of the Press, the University of Cambridge has made grants of books printed at the Press, to the following Libraries: Free Public Library, Battersea; Library of the Independent College, Bangor; Library of the Working Men's College, Boston; Library of the Mechanics' Institute, Crewe; Free Public Library, Kensington; Free Public Library, Loughborough; Free Public Library, Poole; Free Public Library, South Shields.

Dr. Venn, F.R.S. Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, has presented his valuable collection of books on Logic, numbering over a thousand, to the University Library of Cambridge University.

Mrs. Badger has presented a large collection of Oriental Books and Manuscripts made by her husband, the Rev. Dr. George Percy Badger, to the same library.

A vigilant book-hunter recently picked up a volume containing two MS. treatises—"An introduction to ye Study of Physic," and "The Doctrine of ye Pulse." Inside the cover is inscribed "Eras: Darwin, St. John's 52," in the same hand-writing as that of the treatises. The finder has sent the book to Mr. Francis Darwin for his inspection.

Mr. Tweed D. A. Jewers, the public librarian of Portsmouth, has been instructing and amusing his readers by the delivery of a lecture, which he entitled "Chips from a Literary Workshop." After dealing with Roman, Greek, Spanish, Italian, French, German, and English literature, the lecturer "touched in turn on language, economy, and flirts, the latter involving some amusing dissertations, which were followed by the applause and laughter of a large audience."

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

ABERDEEN.—It is proposed to erect a new building for the Public Library, at the right-hand side of the Denburn Viaduct. It will be entirely built of granite and is estimated to cost £8000.

ARBROATH.—Mr. William Carnegie, of this town, has been appointed librarian of the public library in the room of Mr. Ogilvie, resigned.

BOOTLE.—The quarterly meeting of the Mersey District Association of Librarians was held at the Bootle-cum-Linacre Free Public Library and Museum, on Friday, February 8th. About twenty librarians were present, Mr. J. J. Ogle, borough librarian of Bootle, occupying the chair. A report on the classification of fiction was read; and a suggestion to invite further co-operation was approved. A paper entitled *Notes on the Barrow-in-Furness Free Public Library*, by Mr. J. Frowde, was read by Mr. Formby; and plans of the new building were exhibited. An interesting and practical discussion on the subject of library plans followed. Mr. Lancaster read a paper entitled *The relation of the Free Library to Technical Instruction*, which also led to a good discussion. Mr. May gave notice that at the next meeting, he would bring up the question of discussing the papers read at meetings of the Library Association. An invitation to hold the May meeting at Oldham was cordially accepted. The thanks of the meeting were accorded to the committee for the use of their rooms, and to Mr. Ogle for his hospitality and conduct in the chair. The meeting is reported to have been "highly enjoyable, and of a thoroughly practical character."

CARDIFF.—The Free Library Committee propose to apply for authority to borrow money to enable them to enlarge the central building, and there is much talk of establishing branch reading rooms.

CROYDON.—Some burgesses of Croydon have warned the Town Council against putting in force the Libraries Acts on the ground of the illegality of the poll, but the Attorney General and Mr. R. S. Wright have advised that the Mayor acted in accordance with law in issuing voting papers to certain compound householders, and that the resolution as declared by him adopting the Libraries Acts could be acted upon as valid.

ELGIN.—A committee has been formed here to forward the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts.

GLASGOW: BAILLIE'S INSTITUTION, FREE LIBRARY. Mr. E. A. H. Kay, an assistant at the Mitchell Library, has been appointed Librarian in succession to Mr. Mason.

GRANGEMOUTH.—On Jan 31st the new Public Library building was formally opened by Mr. T. D. Brodie, who, in his speech, remarked that "it was of the first importance to have those annual conferences of librarians which were held from place to place, when they devised schemes for discharging better and more conveniently to the public, if that were possible, the functions that were so well discharged already." The new building, designed by Mr. Black, of Falkirk, is described as of the Italian order. The memorial stone was laid on 1st Oct. last, by the Earl of Zetland, who gave £200 towards the funds. The temporary premises were opened on 14th Sept. 1887, by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, who contributed £900 towards the erection of the building.

HALIFAX.—Mr. J. Whiteley has been appointed to succeed Mr. J. Reed Welch (who is removing to Clapham) as secretary and librarian of the Public Library, at a salary of £80. Mr. Whiteley is at present librarian of the Akroyd Branch of the Halifax Public Library. His place at the branch library will be taken by Mr. L. S. Jastrzebski (at a salary of £55), now sub-librarian at the central library, who will be succeeded in the latter post by Mr. R. H. Green, now chief assistant at the central library. As the report just issued shows a balance in the year's account of £102 9s. 2d. the only excuse for meagre salaries seems to be wanting in this case.

LEANDUDNO.—A poll of the rate-payers has been taken as to the adoption of the Libraries Acts, with the following result:—Against, 771; For 626; majority against 145. There were 88 spoilt voting papers, and no fewer than 207 blanks.

LONDON: BATTERSEA.—The Commissioners for the Battersea Free Libraries propose to borrow £11,000 for building purposes.

LONDON: CITY POLICE LIBRARY.—At the annual dinner of the members of the "Second Division Library," Sergeant Kitch reported that 300 new books had been added during the year, and that the Library now contains 1,038 volumes.

LONDON: HAMPSTEAD.—At the annual meeting of subscribers to the Hampstead Public Library the recent action of the committee in opening the free library on Sunday evenings with voluntary helpers, was almost unanimously approved; on the motion of Mr. C. E. Maurice, seconded by Mr. Walter Besant, and supported by Canon Ainger.

LONDON: HAMMERSMITH.—Mr. Samuel Martin has been appointed librarian and secretary of the Hammersmith Free Public Library.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—The Hon. and Rev. Canon Pelham, chairman of the Lambeth Free Libraries Commissioners, has received a letter from a Lambeth Parishioner, who wishes to be anonymous, offering £500 towards a library for Brixton and Stockwell if the whole amount of £10,000, to which Mr. Tate has promised £5000, is subscribed by the 31st of March. Canon Pelham gives the following statement on the progress of Lambeth libraries:—Two libraries at work, one at Norwood, built by the commissioners, largely aided by private subscriptions (the site being provided by Mr. Nettlefold) and the South Lambeth Library, given by Mr. Tate; one library, nearly finished, at Kennington Cross, given by Miss Durning Smith; Mr. Noble's promise of £10,000 for a library for North Lambeth, for which a site is much needed.

LONDON: PADDINGTON. Dr. Garnett occupied the chair at the annual meeting of the Paddington Public Library on Jan. 26. In his address he testified to the importance of such institutions. The British Museum was inadequate to the needs of a large population. The reading-room under the great dome could only accommodate 350 readers at one time. When he first entered upon his duties as superintendent the attendances were 300 daily; now they were 650, but what was that compared with the number of readers in London. He spoke in very high terms of the library at the East End Palace, but no effort to establish a public library, he said, had pleased him more than the one he had come to advocate that evening, which owed its existence to the persevering energy of one man, Mr. Frank Moss.

RICHMOND.—The very successful photographic exhibition, which has been held here, was ably helped by Mr. Pacy, the public librarian, the elaborate catalogue of the exhibition being entirely compiled by him.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Aberdeen. Report of the Public Library Committee. 1887-8. pp. 19.

The total number of issues was 275,498, being 1,401 less than in the preceding year. There was a falling off of 17,571 vols. from the lending library, but an increase in magazine reading on the premises of 14,894 vols., and of works of reference of 552 vols. The lending library contains 19,768 vols., being 2,030 more than last reported. Applications for borrowers' cards were made by 8,771 persons, being about a tenth of the whole population. Of the total issues 63 per cent. were of works of fiction and "juveniles"; 11'50 of history, travels, &c.; 10'23 of periodical literature; 3'12 of science; and from about 1'50 to 1'85 of works of theology, sociology, fine arts, useful arts, and poetry respectively. The binder in the building had 4,183 vols. through his hands. A new form of indicator, devised by Mr. Robertson, the librarian, has been introduced, with satisfactory results. The working expenses for the year amounted to £1,619, but interest and proportion of office charges, and proportion of general charges of management absorbed £164. The adverse balance of the previous year was £249, now it is only £72.

Belfast Free Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending Department, compiled by G. H. Elliott, 1888, pp. xi, 1-361.

This large catalogue is sold at the low price of sixpence, and is one of the cheapest ever issued. It is set in double columns with Clarendon type beginnings. There is too much "white" for economy, and the printers have been allowed to indulge to their hearts' content in their passion for capitals. Here are a few instances:—"He That Will Not When He May;" "House Divided Against Itself;" "Ought We to Visit Her;"—[World] Went Very Well Then." There is too much freedom exercised in the use of lines to signify repetition of words in the preceding title, thus:—

John : a Tale.

— Bull, &c.

Professor : a Novel.

— at the Breakfast Table.

The surname of every author ought to be given in full, and not indicated—as in the case, for example, of about twenty-three members of the family of Smith—by a hyphen with the addition of initial or initials. The contents of "Old and New London" occupies about a page and a half of the catalogue, although it is set in small type.

Berlin. Bibliothek der gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin. Verzeichniss der Bücher. Berlin, 1888. 8vo, pp xvi, 418.

Arranged under three divisions, the first containing general geographical literature; the second, special books on the subject; and the third devoted to auxiliary sciences, *e.g.* anthropology, astronomy, botany, &c. Index.

Blackpool. Eighth Annual Report of the Committee of the Blackpool Free Library. [Nov.], 1887-8. pp. 14.

The library contains 5,332 vols. There are 1,481 borrowers. One person in every fourteen of the population borrows books from this library. The year's issues were 45,188 vols. against 42,074 in 1886-7, being a daily average issue of 150 vols. The reading-room is often crowded, the daily average attendance for the year being 224. The year's receipts [misprinted "payments"] amounted to £653; and the expenditure for the same period was £556. Miss Eteson is the librarian.

Chelsea Public Libraries. First Report of the Commissioners, 1887-1888, pp. 24.

This well printed report gives a history of the movement which resulted in the adoption of the Libraries Acts, and of its working at Chelsea. The poll was taken in May, 1887—the “ayes” being 3,540, and the “noes,” 2,515. Commissioners were appointed June 7, 1887, with Mr. B. W. Findon as hon. secretary. The Rev. F. Relton visited a number of provincial libraries in August of the same year. The old Board Room was opened as a reading room, November 7, 1887. The total week day attendance during 1888, was 131,719, being a daily average attendance of 429; and on Sundays, 8,960, or an average attendance of 172. A reading room was inaugurated in Harrow Road, Kensal Town, on January 2, 1888, the daily average attendance on week days being 180, and 56 on Sundays. Mr. J. H. Quinn, of the Liverpool Free Reference Library, was appointed Chief Librarian and Clerk to the Commissioners, in November, 1887, and on January 2, 1888, he entered upon his duties. Mr. G. Preece, of the Barrow Free Library, was appointed Librarian in Kensal Town, and Mr. A. B. Robinson, of the Richmond Free Library, as sub-librarian in Chelsea. The Earl Cadogan has given a site for the central library. A contract for the erection of a library building in Harrow Road, and Fourth Avenue, Kensal Town has been made. In addition to land, the Earl Cadogan has given £350 for the purchase of scientific books; Sir Charles W. Dilke, Bart., £500, besides many valuable works; Lady Lindsay, £20; and the chairman, Mr. G. W. Osborn, £200. Up to the end of 1888, the number of volumes acquired was as follows:—Chelsea 5,169, and Kensal Town 2,589, total 7,758 vols. The nucleus of a “Local Collection” has been acquired. A financial statement, from June 7, 1887, to March 25, 1888, is appended to the report.

Cheltenham. Fourth Annual Report of the [Free] Public Library Committee, 1887-8. pp. 16.

For home reading 124,432 vols. were issued, being an increase of 13,249 on the issues of the previous year; and there were 8,026 vols. consulted, against 5,966 in 1886-7—a total increase of 15,309 vols. Extra assistance had to be provided. Out of the 433,398 vols. issued since the opening in October, 1884, there are no books unaccounted for. There were 1,350 vols. added to stock during the year reported upon. In the juvenile section the issues were 25,610 vols. Miss Lucy Stokes gave 527 vols. to the reference library, two wall maps, and £10. The new building, which is to accommodate the Library and Schools of Science and Art is rapidly approaching completion. The “joint appeal” realised £1,152 10s. 6d., and the “Jubilee Tower Fund” £837 3s. 7d.

Columbia College Library. Fifth Annual Report of the Chief Librarian and Second Annual Report of the Director of the School of Library Economy, June 30, 1888. New York, 1888. 8vo, pp. 31.

Mr. Melvil Dewey announces continued success in the second year of his work in the School of Library Economy. There were in attendance eleven senior students (two men and nine women) and twenty-two juniors (six men and sixteen women), showing how much librarianship is becoming an occupation for women in America. Twenty-seven bibliographical lectures were given by the professors of Columbia College. Class visits were paid to nineteen different libraries for the critical study of their respective methods.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Bibliothèque Nationale. Catalogue des Manuscrits des fonds Libri et Barrois, par Léopold Délisle. Paris, Champion, 1888. Roy. 8vo, pp. xcvi, 331, planches vii.

In the preface to this important work the Director of the Bibliothèque Nationale relates the story of the famous thefts committed by Libri, and gives an account of the very doubtful means employed by the French bibliophile, Joseph Barrois, to bring together and finally to dispose of a collection of MSS. of priceless value. It will be remembered that in both instances the purchaser was Lord Ashburnham. M. Délisle tells of the various attempts made by the present Lord Ashburnham to sell the MSS., which, after some delay, resulted in the acquisition by the German Government of a portion of the collection, and in the ultimate restoration of one hundred and eighty MSS. to the French national library, from which they had been stolen. The Bibliothèque gave in exchange their famous *Recueil de Manuscrits*, now in the Heidelberg University Library, and 150,000 francs. The MSS. are described at length in the catalogue. We congratulate M. Délisle on the production of an admirable work of permanent bibliographical interest—in which, it is unnecessary to say, he gives ample evidence of his profound palaeographical learning.

The Printers' Vocabulary: a Collection of some 2,500 Technical Terms, Phrases, Abbreviations and other Expressions, mostly relating to Letterpress Printing, many of which have been in use since the time of Caxton. By Charles Thomas Jacobi, compiler of *The Printers' Handbook*, &c. London, Chiswick Press, 1888. Cr. 8vo, pp. vii, 164.

If Mr. Jacobi had explained at greater length such technicalities as "Ems," "Quads," &c., in place of including terms not peculiar to printing, e.g. "Court Envelopes," "Donkey Engine," "Prince of Wales Note Paper," we think he would have rendered greater service to the uninitiated for whom his work is in part at least prepared. A large number of the terms and phrases have been in use for upwards of two hundred years, and the compiler has rendered good service by indicating with an asterisk such as are found in Joseph Moxon's "Mechanick Exercises," 1683.

Old Bibles: an account of the early versions of the English Bible.

By J. R. Dore. Second edition, with the preface to the version of 1611 added. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1888. sm. 8vo, pp. xvi. 395, with facsimiles of title pages.

Mr. Dore's acquaintance with old English bibles is more perfect than his knowledge of modern English book-making. The volume contains much information thrown together in a somewhat confused fashion. The first edition appeared in 1876.

Della compilazione dei cataloghi per biblioteche e del modo di pubblicarli per mezzo di titoli separati stereotipati: regole ed esempi di Charles C. Jewett. Prima versione dall' Inglese a cura del Dr. Guido Biagi. Firenze: G. C. Sansoni, 1888. 8vo, pp. ix. 120.

Jewett's *Report on the construction of Catalogues of Libraries*, was first issued by the Smithsonian Institution in 1852. Dr. Biagi has translated from the second edition (1853). This and the next two publications form part of the admirable *Biblioteca di Bibliografia e Paleografia*.

Programma scolastico di paleografia latina e di diplomatica esposto da Cesare Paoli. I. Paleografia Latina: 2 ediz. notevolmente accresciuta e in parte ricompilata. Firenze: G. C. Sansoni, 1888. 8vo, pp. vii. 57.

The *Programma* was first published in 1883; a German translation appeared in 1885. The second part will be devoted to writing materials, &c., the third to mediæval chronology, the fourth to diplomatics, the fifth and last to archives.

The last number (November, 1888) of the *Library Bulletin* of Cornell University, which has reached us, contains a description and plan of the new library building.

M. Henri Omont has brought out the third part of his *Inventaire sommaire des MSS. grecs de la Bibliothèque Nationale*. A list of the Greek codices in the other libraries of Paris, as well as those of the departmental collections, is added in this volume. A fourth, to include the introduction and index, will complete the work.

The *Mélanges d'Archéologie et d'Histoire publiés par l'Ecole Française de Rome*, t. viii, contains an article by the Abbé P. Batiffol, on "Librairies Byzantines à Rome."

An "Étude Biographique et Bibliographique" is prefixed to the *Œuvres de Pierre Goudelin*, edited by Dr. J. B. Noulet (Toulouse: E. Privat, 1887, 8vo, pp. lvii, 507).

The third and last volume has appeared of *Archivi e biblioteche di Spagna in rapporto alla storia d'Italia in generale e di Sicilia in particolare* (Palermo: 1888, 4to, pp. 312).

The conclusion, parte iii, of the *Bibliografia Euclidea* (Bologna, 1888, 4to, pp. 25), of Professor Pietro Riccardi has been issued.

Gli Zincari, by Adriano Colocci (Torino: E. Loescher, 1889, 8vo, pp. 419), includes a gypsy bibliography.

Dr. Guido Biagi promises an Italian translation of Mr. Cutter's *Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue*.

Signor Ferrari Ferruccio has issued separately some copies of his article "Le bibliografie degli incunaboli" (Bologna, 1888, sm. 8vo, pp. 19), from the *Rivista Italiana*.

Signor Annibale Tenneroni's articles on *I codici Laurenziani della Divina Commedia*, and Signor B. Podesta's letter to Prof. Carlo Castellani on a copy of the first Latin edition of the *Speculum Humane Salvationis*, both of which appeared in the *Rivista delle Biblioteche*, have been issued as pamphlets.

Messrs. Trübner announce that their valuable serial *American, European, and Oriental Literary Record* will, on and after the 15th of March, be permanently enlarged. The new series will contain "obituaries and literary notes, * * * reviews, independent articles on Oriental subjects, and periodical statements as to the advance made in Oriental research." The services of Dr. Rost, as editor, have been secured. No more trustworthy guide to the subjects it embraces exists, and we wish the *Record* all success.

Mr. George Clinch, of the British Museum, is passing through the press his "Antiquarian Jottings." A large portion of the book has had the advantage of the criticism and correction that is evoked by previous publication in the columns of a newspaper. The volume contains much interesting bibliographical matter.

Correspondence.

THE RATING OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Free Public Library, Wimbledon, January 23rd, 1889.

THE question whether a Free Public Library should be assessed to local rates, or not, has probably engaged the attention of many of your readers before, but, so far as I can ascertain, it has not yet been definitely answered.

It is only common sense to assume that an institution supported by a rate, which is, in many cases, insufficient for its maintenance, and which is expended directly for the benefit of the ratepayers, should be exempted from the payment of all rates and taxes.

The Wimbledon Free Library Committee, believing that they complied with the requirements of the Act 6 and 7 Vic. cap. 36. (*An Act to exempt from County, Borough, Parochial and other Local Rates, Land and Buildings occupied by Scientific or Literary Societies*), applied for, secured the certificate of exemption, and sent in their claim for exemption to the assessment committee.

A member of the library committee (an able barrister) attended the assessment committee, and succeeded in convincing them that the library was a literary institution, but objection was taken to the librarian's residence on the premises, which they contended constituted a beneficial occupation, and to this extent therefore made the library rateable. This was replied to by sending in cases which clearly proved, that such residence, being for carrying into effect the purposes of the institution, would not invalidate the claim for exemption.

The clerk to the assessment committee finally advised the committee, "that the Wimbledon Free Library is not such an institution as is described by the Act, and the fact that the committee purchase newspapers and periodicals is sufficient to make the claim invalid."

The library committee on hearing of this decision, decided to take the opinion of an eminent Q.C. on the subject, and there the matter rests for the present.

The editor of the *Surrey Comet*, in consequence of our action, and for the purpose of writing an article, since published, issued circulars to all the librarians of Free Libraries in England, asking the following questions—

- (1) Is your library assessed to local rates?
- (2) Have your committee applied for exemption?
- (3) Does the librarian, or caretaker, as the case may be, live on the premises?

By the courtesy of the editor, I have been permitted to take a list of these replies: summarised they are as follows—

- 50 Free Public Libraries are not assessed to local rates, and in 24 of these the librarians or caretakers live upon the premises.
- 49 Free Public Libraries are assessed to local rates, and in 7 cases the committees have applied for exemption and have not been successful.

Apparently no committee has carried a case to Quarter Sessions, and consequently we have no precedent to support us.

If any of your readers happen to know of any such case, I would be grateful if they would acquaint me of it, and for any other information likely to be useful.

THOMAS H. RABBITT,
Librarian and Secretary.

[This is a most important question for Free Libraries, and we trust that those interested will take it up and not let it rest until it has been finally decided in favour of the libraries. ED.]

THE TURN-OVER OF LIBRARIES.

Would you kindly allow me to ask those of your readers who are more experienced than myself in the actual working of a library a question on this subject? What should be considered a satisfactory figure for libraries of the rank of Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, or Boston (America)? On the working of this last-named library for the last few years comments have appeared elsewhere. It seems to have not quite held its place in comparison, say, with Manchester. The exact figures of the turn-over I am not aware of having seen published in this country. The point of interest to my own mind is this—how far may this steady diminution be safely carried? I should say that in calculating the appended figures I have excluded pamphlets. To reckon them in would, of course, make the turn-over less in amount throughout, but, no doubt, would leave the gradual decrease from year to year unaffected. When averaged over five-year periods, it will be noticed the third has actually fallen below the first period of the whole fifteen years considered:—

TURN-OVER OF BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, U.S.A.

Average of Five-year Periods.

1873	1'8	} 2'6	1878	3'3	} 2'9	1883	2'4	} 2'2
1874	2'3		1879	3'1		1884	2'3	
1875	2'5		1880	3'0		1885	2'2	
1876	3'0		1881	2'6		1886	2'0	
1877	3'3		1882	2'5		1887	1'9	

OWEN ROE.

CHESS.

Can any of the readers of the *Library* favour me with the names of works on the bibliography of CHESS; auction, bookseller's, and collector's catalogues, *et hoc genus omne*, as well as formal works such as Walker's and Van der Linde's.

EDWIN DODDS.

THE OLDEST CIRCULATING LIBRARY IN EUROPE.

The Liverpool (Proprietary) Library.

There has been a statement made in the reports, &c., of this library for very many years past, but which I have not seen contradicted, that this is the "oldest circulating library in Europe." I wish very much to know whether this is true; if not, I see no reason why the fiction need be perpetuated. The library was founded in 1758.

A. W.

The librarian of the Colby University Library, Waterville, Maine, U.S.A., will be glad to receive reports of Beale's *Protoplasm*, 1874, and *The Edinburgh Review*, January, 1884.



The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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THE WORSHIPFUL CHANCELLOR, RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE.

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ERNEST C. THOMAS,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, and in *The Library Chronicle*. Its official organ is now *The Library*, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

The last Monthly Meeting was held on Monday, February 11th, in the Library of Gray's Inn. Mr. James A. Feist, Mr. Harry Hawkes, Mr. James Lister, and Mr. A. C. B. Neill, were announced as having joined the Association; and Mr. William Ormerod, J.P., was elected.

Mr. William R. J. Molloy, F.S.S., M.R.I.A., Chief of Inspections, National Educational Board, Ireland, was proposed for election at next Meeting.

The papers read were:—I. "On a New Method of arranging Private Libraries," by Professor E. Lund, F.R.C.S. II. "A Dynasty of Librarians," by the President. Both papers led to discussion, and votes of thanks were given to the authors.

At the last Meeting of Council, Mr. Robert Harrison was elected a Vice-President. The vacant seats on the Council were filled up by the election of Mr. W. J. Haggerston (provincial), and Mr. Thomas Mason (London).

The next MONTHLY MEETING will be held on MONDAY, MARCH 12th, at 7.30 p.m., at Sion College, Victoria Embankment, E.C., by the kind invitation of the Rev. W. H. Milman, the librarian, who will give an account of the library and of its working. Mr. Milman wishes to state that the re-arrangement of the library is not yet complete.

A Meeting of Council will be held the same evening at 7.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 6a, Paternoster Row, E.C.

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The Library.

On Signatures in Old Books.

NO one now-a-days who has the slightest appreciation of what we owe to old books, and their great importance in all questions of literary history, can afford to slight or ignore their technical peculiarities, yet we often meet with men of culture, observant critics of the soul or inner meaning of a book, who affect to despise that part of bibliography which sees importance in the mere body by which that soul is clothed; they sneer at the study of signatures, and care not how many leaves go to a section or by what caprice, as they call it, one printer put his pages to press singly while another printed two at a time.

Of course if the "*s.l.a.a. et n.l.*" (*Sine loco aut anno et nomen typographi*) added to the title of an early classic in a catalogue raises no wish in the mind of the reader to know where, when, and by whom the book was issued, nothing more can be said, and happy ignorance must be left to its own self-complacency. But such a state of mind is a great misfortune; for the evidence to be deduced from a careful study of the habits and customs of the scribes, and their successors the printers, may often lead to a positive settlement of important questions. In the *Athenæum* for November, 1888, there was a succession of letters upon the signatures and sizes of the early editions of Shakspeare and Jonson, which, while it showed the interest taken in the question, showed also how ignorant even well-known critics and scholars can be of how the books they love are produced.

The doctrine of development and the survival of the fittest has thrown floods of light upon many dark places in the natural history of plants and animals, and I believe the same doctrine may be made equally useful in the study of bibliography. The half-penny newspaper of to-day, with its rotten material and blurred impression, seems, at first, to have nothing in common with the beautiful manuscripts of the middle ages; and yet the one is the true descendant of the other, and it was only by slow degrees that the

printer's progeny parted with their family likeness to the aristocratic products of the professional scribe.

The survival of the fittest is plainly shown in the development of signatures. The simple consecutive number which is used by modern printers to indicate the first page of a sheet is the true survivor of various ways of signing books from the 13th to the 19th century. It has been customary among bibliographers, especially the older writers, to consider the idea of signing sheets at all as the invention of printers. De Marolles, De la Serna, Meerman, Maittaire and others attribute the first use of signatures to the years 1472-1474. Fischer, in his *Beschreibung typographischer Seltenheiten*, devotes forty-two pages to the question; while in England, Conyers Middleton, J. Hartwell Horne and others discuss at length their origin and first appearance. Middleton indeed describes a copy of *Baldi lectura super Codic.* in the University Library of Cambridge (of which he was chief), in which there are no signatures to the first half of the book, but regular signatures through the second half. Although the worthy librarian was sadly out in his deductions, the transitional state of this volume is of great interest. Similar instances will be noticed further on.

The chief use of signatures was and is for the binder. Binding is certainly as old as books, and signatures of some sort are certainly as old as binders. It is conceivable that the early monastic scribe who made his own parchment, concocted his own writing-ink, copied leisurely with his own hand the Bible or Psalter, and lastly bound them *propria manu*, might complete his work without wanting any signatures to help him; or, at any rate, might be satisfied with placing a catchword or number at the end of each section as a guide to their sequence. But when the manufacture of books passed from the monk's scriptorium into the hands of trade guilds, and the increased demand for books caused a great sub-division of labour; and when, instead of one, a manuscript would pass through a dozen workmen's hands before completion, then signatures became a necessity; as much for the scribe as for the binder; as necessary for the collation of the 15th century MS. as for the steam-printed novel of to-day.

The use of signatures is of course to show sequence, and the perfect method of signing adopted for both manuscript and printed books in the 15th century, answered almost the same purpose as numbering the leaves. Every book was made up of sections, and each section, if the book were folio, was made up of a number of whole sheets (mostly four or five) folded in half and set one inside another like a quire of modern note paper. If four sheets went to the section, it

would necessarily have eight leaves, and then the first four rectos would be signed successively *aj*, *aij*, *aiij*, *aiiij*, leaving four leaves blank. The section following would be *bj*, *bij*, *biij*, *biijj*, and so on through the alphabet, the second alphabet being a capital or a double letter. In this way no single sheet throughout the book was without its own peculiar mark, which, however shifted the separate sheets might become, enabled the binder without any reference to the text to place them in their true and proper order. This exact method, however, was not common in manuscripts earlier than about 1350. The 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th century scribes often only signed the first (or last) page of the sections. Sometimes, indeed, they added the letters *a b c d* to the leaves of each section, although, if by accident the leaves of different sections became mixed, they would have been unable to say from the letter upon a sheet to which section it belonged. I have also seen a thick MS. in which the sequence of the sections was written boldly at the foot of the last verso of every quaternion, while the five first rectos were all signed alike, thus: — = ≡ +. The + was not an uncommon way with the scribes to mark the middle sheet of a section. That the perfect method of signing was not unknown for centuries before it became general, is proved by an Arabic MS. in the British Museum (Oriental No. 2568). The subject is "On Jewish religious philosophy," date 11th century, and each section is signed upon the first four leaves (beginning, of course, at what with us is the end of the book) in a contemporary hand with Hebrew letters and Arabic figures. But this is exceptional. About 1350 the scribes began the use of the alphabet with Roman numerals, to give its own designation to every sheet of their books, and as the demand for manuscripts increased the custom spread until it became general.

Let us notice the professional scribe at work, and see what the use of signatures was to him.

In commencing a book, he had first of all to calculate how many pieces of parchment or vellum he would require, which he would then get from the "parchmenier" who made it his business to cure, dress, sort according to quality, and cut up skins to size, ready for his customers. The next process was to rule the down margin lines and the cross lines between which the text was written, allowing for two pages on each side of the vellum, and leaving space in the middle for the folding. He would then determine how many pieces should go to a section, and counting them out in fours or fives, sign each piece at the extreme bottom corner of the first page, thus *a j*, *a ij*, *a iij*, *a iiij*, and so on through the alphabet. Everything being now ready,

the scribe would take the piece marked *a j*, and, having written that page and its verso, would lay it aside and do the same with *a ij*, and not until he had passed the middle of the section would he recur to and complete the earlier written pieces, the signatures on which would guide him as to sequence. Thus proceeding from signature to signature he would finish his manuscript and hand it over to the binder, whose first duty would be to carefully fold each piece in the centre, and then, having tucked the pieces of each signature inside one another, he would scrupulously check the sequence by the signatures before beginning to sew them on the bands.

The intention of writing the signatures at the extreme edge of the paper was that, being unimportant to the bound book and impertinent to the text, they might disappear under the knife of the binder. This is why some manuscripts appear never to have had signatures, although they are still to be found half cut away in many books if the student knows how to look for them.

Few manuscripts appear to have been "ploughed" when originally bound; and few again were bound without undergoing some amount of "trimming." As each section was sewn on the bands, it was "knocked up" even at the "head," so that the sheets were all even at top. Then the shears were used to cut away any redundancy which cropped out at foot or fore-edge; and from this cause, we often see a MS. volume, evidently in its original unploughed state, and yet with many of its MS. signatures either quite gone or partly cut away.

Signatures were placed in various positions, although mostly at the extreme bottom corner of the sheet.

In a splendid copy of an early 15th century Missal at the Mazarin Library, Paris, the scribe has adopted the unusual plan of placing all the signatures in the very back of the sheets where they could not offend the eye; but, as the binding is loose, they can be collated with little trouble throughout the volume, each signature consisting of four sheets or eight leaves.

When printing was invented no new method of signatures was at first adopted. The Mazarin Bible, for instance, which is a large folio, was printed page by page and signed by the pen at the foot of the first four rectos of each signature, just as if it had been a manuscript. In the Perkins' copy the signatures are visible throughout; so they are in the Bodleian copy.

When the first printers wanted a smaller size than folio they treated their paper at first just as the scribe treated his skins, cutting it up in half sheets and printing their quarto pages one at a

time. We must remember that the first printing presses were very small in the "platten," which is the flat surface lowered by the screw to squeeze the paper upon the type; so small indeed, that, although a whole sheet was put in the press, only half was printed by the first, and half by the second "pull." Moxon, who in 1693 wrote the first book on the Mechanics of Printing, gives the size of the platten in his "improved" presses as 14 inches by 9 inches, which is much smaller than a sheet of foolscap.

Returning to the manuscript signatures on printed books, we note that Caxton's early books show the same treatment. The first book from his Bruges Press, *The Recuyell of the histories of Troye*, a fine uncut copy of which is in Her Majesty's library at Windsor, is signed throughout at the very foot of the pages. So is another, the *Quatre derennieres choses*, and a fine copy of *Gulielmi de Saona Rhetorica* in the Upsala library. Before me is a Cologne-printed book, *Eusebius de morte sancti Jeronomi*, circa 1470, and here the signatures are in MS. throughout, although many of them are half cut away in binding. Perhaps the most interesting instance is the work at Cambridge, already mentioned as quoted by Middleton, who, while noticing the printed signatures, which are not used till the work was partly printed, seems entirely to have overlooked the manuscript signatures, which are (that is all that are left) at the foot and run all through the work, being often correct when those that are printed are wrong. Perhaps nothing will be found to show the transition more forcibly than this; for the printer blundered over the new plan of printing the signatures and had to fall back on the old system. We must here note that the printers could not, without difficulty, pursue the custom of the scribes, and print their signatures at foot, because two or three types at a distance from the body of the page would certainly be broken off by the pressure; so finding the MS. signatures troublesome and often hard to read, they at first tried the plan of stamping them in with types by hand at the extreme edge, sometimes at foot, sometimes at the fore-edge. This development was scarcely an improvement, and is found in but few books of the years 1474-75. Then the printers tried printing them at the foot, and by the same pull of the press. This plan had no life in it, and it was then that the bright and bold idea struck a Cologne printer to ignore the ugliness and place his type signatures close up to the solid page. The custom soon spread and became general, and curious it is to notice how this slight development has given rise to numerous mistaken arguments on the so-called "invention of signatures."

We may now safely conclude that the idea of books without signatures is a bibliographical delusion.

In an Appendix will be given a list of books in various libraries, which will show the variety of methods used by the scribes and early printers in signing their books.

We will now trace the development of signatures caused by printing more than one page at a time, and its effect upon the size notation of books.

Paper, although invented some centuries before the discovery of printing, was little used for library books, being looked down upon as inferior in every way to vellum. It was used for school books such as Donatuses and Cato's distichs, but not for good books. With the advent of the press this was soon changed. Even if the expense had not been too great, all the skins of Europe could not have supplied the rapacious jaws of the new giant book-maker. So it is that the use of paper for superior books is synchronous with the invention of printing. But with sheets of paper a new development arose: the scribe writing on, page by page, section by section, required his vellum already cut to size, and in this the early printers followed suit—from necessity where the pages were large, and from old custom where small: but paper, being made in moulds, differed from parchment, in being always regular to certain fixed sizes, and being easily folded, a new nomenclature for the various foldings became necessary.

Until the invention of printing, there appear to have been no particular names for the sizes of books. There are numerous catalogues of large manuscript libraries extant, especially those of Burgundy and France in the 14th and 15th centuries; but although the catalogue writers are minute as to certain particulars such as the character of the writing and the ornamental binding, there is never any mention of size beyond the vague "*ung grand liure*" for a big History of the World, or "*ung petit liure*" for a diminutive Horæ. With the use of paper, however, subdivision came in the natural course of events, and sheets folded in half were called folio, in half again, quarto, and in half again, octavo, a nomenclature as precise as it was novel. Another development was printing two pages at a time, followed soon by four pages. This was done by an arrangement already noticed, which allowed one half of the sheet to be printed by a first pull and the other half by a second pull, without lifting the sheet from the press.

We have seen how with MS. and early printed books the various sheets were placed inside one another like a quire of paper with

the signatures on every recto up to the centre of each section ; but now with the printing in quarto, a system of signatures arose, which, although not commonly met with, has greatly puzzled bibliographers, viz. : where the first recto of a section is signed *a j*, the second recto blank, and the third signed *a ij*, with all the rest blank. Let the reader take two sheets of common note paper, and folding each separately in half, make a representation of quarto. Now mark on the first recto of the first sheet the signature *a j*, leaving three leaves unmarked, and on the first recto of the other sheet *a ij*, and then place the second sheet inside the first, and at once you have a quaternion with the following series for the eight leaves : sig. *a j*—no sig.—sig. *a ij*—no sig.—no sig.—no sig.—no sig.—no sig. This was really an excellent plan ; it answered all the purpose of the binder in collating, and was a natural development. It did not, however, take deep root, and the old plan of signing the first four leaves prevailed in all its simplicity long after its necessity had vanished. The octavo size was treated in a similar manner. It is common to find 16th and 17th century books printed in whole sheets octavo and signed like the folios and quartos on each of the four first rectos. We may here just notice another peculiarity of signing, and that is where, although the sections have eight leaves only, they are signed upon the fifth as well as the first four rectos, leaving only three rectos unsigned. This had a slight use in telling the binder which was the central sheet of each section, and that he need look no further, an object gained in many manuscripts by the use of a cross, +. The Aldus family did not print smaller than 8vo, but the Elzevirs and Plantins used 16mo and 24mo abundantly, the old custom of signing still surviving, and the small alike with the large sections consisting of eight leaves, of which four were signed and four not signed.

We now see that all sizes being signed alike, the signatures cannot with early printed books be any guide as to size.

The tendency to print small books developed another practice which ought to be understood. Say that it is decided to print a volume in 24mo ; this of course is 24 pages on one side of the sheet and 24 pages on the other. Take now a sheet of any size, a sheet of note paper will show the working of it as well as any : folded once it is folio, making 4 pages ; now fold carefully across into three, that makes 6to with 12 pages ; fold into half again, and that is 12mo with 24 pages ; and again in half is 24mo with 48 pages. Here the back is too thick and clumsy for binding, so cut the paper into three even parts where you made the second fold, and then folding up each

third by itself you have 16 pages on each third. This is what the Elzevirs did, and signed each third on the first four rectos with four rectos blank, so that the first sheet gave them when cut up, signatures *a*, *b* and *c*.

In a future article will be explained the nature of water-marks and their great use to bibliographers.

WILLIAM BLADES.

APPENDIX.

The following books in easily accessible libraries are quoted, among many equally illustrative, as showing the various steps in Signature development.

I. MSS. WITH WRITTEN SIGNATURES AT FOOT OF THE PAGE.

1. *Bible in Latin*, with French illuminations. Early XIV. cent. (Bod. MSS. No. 1848).

A small thick volume, made up in quinternions. The illuminations are all deficient in the ornamental flourishes, which are cut off at foot. The sections were all numbered on the first recto, but some are gone. The first rectos of each section are lettered *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*.

2. *Poor Caitiff*. English XIV. cent. (Bod. MSS. No. 1843).

Signatures throughout at extreme bottom corner.

3. *Biblia*. 2 vols. lar. folio, dated 1360 (Guildhall Library, London).

A beautiful MS. with a few of the signatures remaining in the second volume. All those in the first volume have been cut away in the rebinding.

4. *Boethius de Consolatione Philosophiae*. Translated into English. Vellum, XV. cent. (Brit. Mus. Harl. 2421).

All the sections signed in MS. at foot on the first four rectos.

II. MANUSCRIPT SIGNATURES IN EARLY PRINTED BOOKS.

1. *Plinius Secundus. Historia Naturalis*. Jenson, Venice. Large folio, 1472. (Bod. Auct. N. 1, 2).

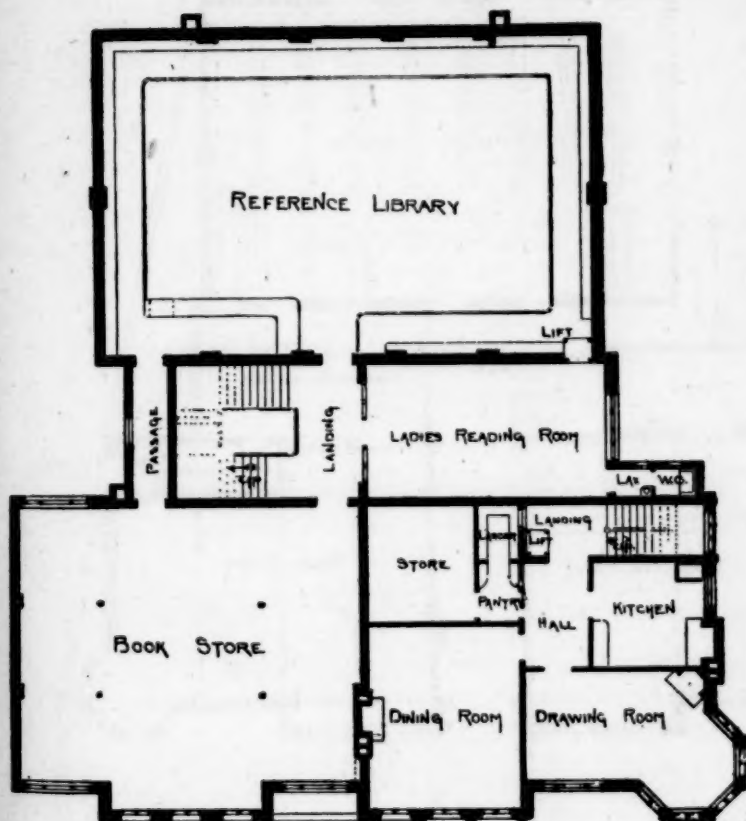
Signed in MS. at extreme edge.

2. *The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye*. Folio. Printed at Bruges by Caxton, c. 1475 (H.M. Lib. Windsor).

In quinternions with MS. signatures at foot of every first five rectos.

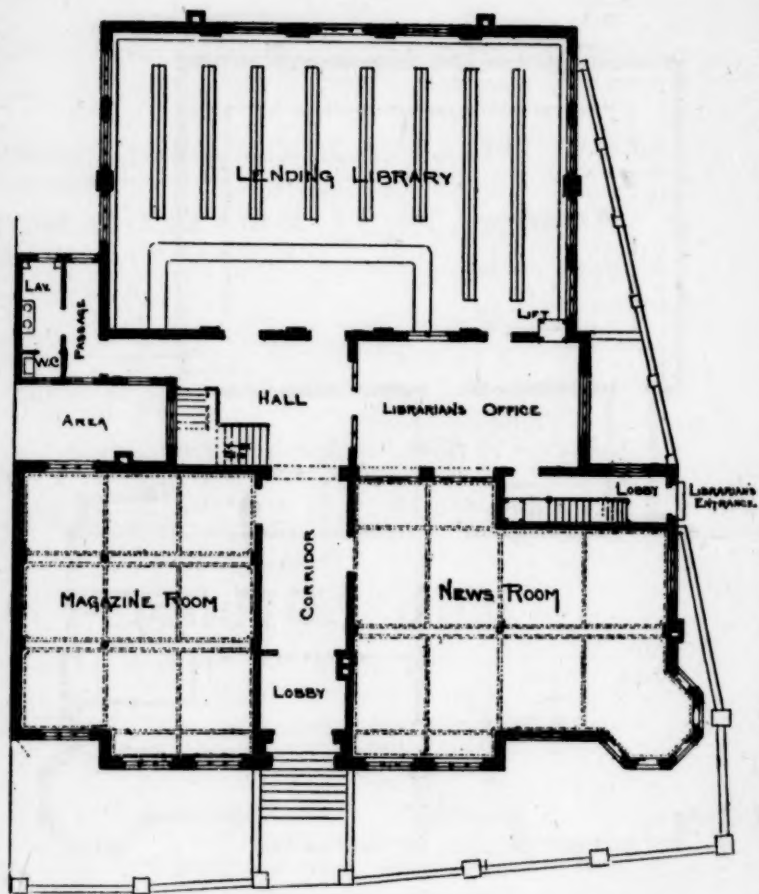
3. *Epistola Sæcti Jeronomi Presbiteri * * * De Libris Salomonis*. Folio. No place or date, but with the types of C. de Homberch of Cologne, c. 1475 (Cam. Univ.)

THE BATTERSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY.



PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR.

THE BATTERSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY.



PLAN OF THE SECOND FLOOR.

Volume II. only, which begins at Proverbs, in the library. In quinternions, the book beginning with sig. JJ written at the extreme bottom corner. A peculiarity worth noting is the use of a † upon every fifth recto to show the middle of the section. Another peculiarity not noticed by me in any other book is the originality displayed by the scribe who added the signatures. They run through the alphabet as usual up to zz, and *z*; but instead of then commencing the alphabet afresh with capital letters, he beat his brains as to what he should do next. ZZ would do for one, and then a sign like the Greek letter ξ , thus: | ξ | | ξ |, and then the words "est" and "us" were used. His imagination now exhausted, he bethought him of the Lord's Prayer, the use of which I should never have imagined till the sequence of the words forced itself upon me. It is used thus, with contractions: *p'ter j—p'ter ij—p'ter iij—p'ter iiij*—four leaves unsigned; *nosť j—nosť ij—nosť iij—nosť iiij*—four leaves unsigned; *qui j—qui ij—qui iij—qui iiij*—four leaves unsigned; and so on through *es—jn—celis—sāficet—nomē—tuū—adūerat—r'gnū—tuū—fiat—volūtas—tuā—sicut*—and here the book ends.

4. *Platea, F. de, De restitutionibus.* 4to. Venice, 147. (Bod. Auct. Q. inf. I, 15).

In roman type. Signed throughout in MS. at extreme bottom corner. Many cut away.

III. MS. AND PRINTED SIGNATURES IN THE SAME BOOK.

1. *Aquinas, Thos. Summa Angelica.* Per Albert Standaël. Folio, 1473 (Bod. Auct. I Q. IV, 30).

Ploughed, but MS. sigs. at *b* 1 and *b* 5. On *c* signatures stamped in by hand begin.

2. *Horatius (Flaccus).* Folio. Milan, 1474 (Brit. Mus. C 3, b 3).

Up to D the signatures are all inserted by the pen, after which printed sigs. are used, both being at the extreme edge.

IV. SIGNATURES STAMPED IN WITH SEPARATE TYPES.

1. *Platea, F. de, De restitutionibus, Usurarum, et Excoīcatorum.* Folio. Venice, 1473 (Bod. Auct. II Q. inf. I. 40).

The signatures to "De restitutione" are stamped in by hand with single types. They are at the extreme edge of the sheet and always close on the "point holes," the position of which differed from modern usage. At sig. G the plan is altered and signatures written in by hand take the place of the hand-stamp. Many signatures have been cut away.

2. *Horatius (Flaccus)*. Folio. Milan, 1474? (Brit. Mus. C 3, b 3).

Here there are manuscript signatures up to D, where the stamping begins at the extreme edge of the paper, many having disappeared under the binder's knife.

3. *Propertius*. Folio. Milan, 1475? (Brit. Mus. C 19, a 9).

Signatures plainly stamped in at a distance from text.

4. *Horatius (Flaccus)*. Folio. Venice (impensis P. de Lavagnia civis Mediolanensis), 1476 (Bod. Auct. O. 2. 2).

The signatures begin with a cap. A, stamped in, and this plan is pursued through all the quaternions. The signatures are at various distances from the foot of the text, and all at extreme edge, many being ploughed off.

V. SIGNATURES PRINTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE TEXT BUT A LONG DISTANCE BELOW IT, LIKE THE MS. SIGNATURES.

1. *Uberti (Fazio degli, &c.)* Folio. Vincentia. 1474. (Brit. Mus. C 6. b 7).

Text.

There are type signatures throughout, but all at the very bottom of the page and at the distance here given. The exactitude of the distance in consecutive pages points to the signatures being printed at same time as text.

Sig.

2. *Catullus Opera*. 4to. Venice, 1475. (Brit. Mus. C 19, d 9. Cracherode copy).

The third book in this volume is Propertius, and here, although they might easily escape the eye, are bold signatures printed so near the fore edge that only a few have escaped the binder's plough. They are B 1, B 2, B 3, C 1, C 3, D 2, D 3, D 4, E 1, E 2, E 3, and F 1. In the first two and last books there are no signatures remaining.

3. *Uberti, Ditta* Folio. Rome, 1474. (Brit. Mus.)

Text.

The signatures are all printed at this distance from the bottom of the page, and all at the same distance. If they were stamped in they would certainly show some variation.

4. *Another copy.* Folio. Rome, 1474. (Bod. Auct. II. Q. 3, 50).

This agrees, in all respects, with the Brit. Mus. copy.

Sig.

VI. THE NORMAL SIGNATURE, PRINTED IN THE LINE JUST BENEATH THE TEXT.

1. *Mamotrectus.* Folio. Printed at Ergow (Switzerland), 1470 (Bod. Auct. V. Q. V. 41).

This book is quoted as the earliest known instance of printed signatures, but is not really so. The designation of the various columns of text by a series of letters under each column, may, together with the numeration of the pages, have served for accuracy of reference, but such a plan has nothing in common with signatures. The MS. signatures, if there were any, have been cut away.

2. *Nider Johann. Expositio Decalogi.* Folio. Lubeck, Printed by John Koelhoff, 1472 (Brit. Mus. C 14, b 2). Also in the Bodleian.

This is a puzzling book, for it is at least two years earlier than any other book so signed. In this city too, many works were issued with MS. signatures with a later date than this. It is dangerous to assert that a book is wrongly dated because you cannot make it fit into a bibliographical theory; but I feel inclined from the general aspect of the book to date it as 1482, rather than 1472.

Platea, F. de. Folio, Cologne, 1474 (Brit. Mus. 1275, d 5) has also normal signatures; so has Lucan's *Epigrams*, folio, Venice, 1475 (Brit. Mus. C 16, i 9).

Borrowing and Rating Powers under the Public Libraries Acts.¹

How can we clear off or reduce the debt on our library?—must be a question often repeated by many a library committee and librarian. At the Birmingham Meeting of the Library Association, Mr. Dent told us that the Library Committee of Aston “are relieved by the local board of the necessity of making any contribution towards the repayment of the building loan; a nominal rent charge only being paid.” So important did this information seem to be, that I wrote to several librarians asking for information as to the debts on their respective libraries, and I need hardly say that the answers I received were courteous and fully explanatory. In nearly all cases money has been borrowed on the security of the penny library rate, the interest being paid out of the proceeds of the same, but there are two exceptions in the cases of Aston and Smethwick. Mr. Dent, writing to me from Aston said:—“A building was erected in 1880 for the accommodation of the various departments of the local board and for the free library. When the local board went into occupation of the premises, it was in contemplation to charge the library either a rent, or with a portion of the loan; but the Local Government Board auditor ruled that no portion of the loan (not even that expended upon furnishing), could be repaid by the Library Committee, and that it was the duty of the Board to provide the premises and furniture. This was questioned by some members of the Aston Board, but the Local Government Board upheld the decision of their auditor, with the result that the Library Committee simply pay a fixed annual sum as their share of establishment expenses, which include firing, water, cleaning, services of porter, and commission for collection of rate.” At Smethwick, a precisely similar decision was given. A building had been erected for the joint purposes of a Free Library and Gas Offices; a sum of money was borrowed, and £1,600 was apportioned to be paid off by the Library Committee within a period of thirty years. Instalments of capital and interest were paid out of the library rate for about two years, when the auditor stepped in, giving the same ruling as at Aston, and the loan is now charged upon the district rate.

Our library at Richmond languishes under a debt (incurred for

¹ Read at the Glasgow Meeting of the Library Association, September 9th, 1888.

providing site, building, and fittings), which amounts at the present time to £4,160, involving an annual payment of about £245; and even this serious drain upon the income of £630 produced by the penny rate, only enables us to pay instalments of capital off less than one half of the loans. Naturally, upon receipt of the above information, I carefully studied the portions of the Acts relating to the raising of loans, in the hope of finding that, provided the members thereof were agreeable, the Vestry of Richmond would be able legally to relieve the institution of this debt by charging it to the district rate.

By Section XVI. of the principal Act of 1855 (18 and 19 Vict. cap. LXX.) For carrying the Act into execution, the council of any borough may, with the approval of H.M. Treasury, borrow upon the security of the borough fund, *or* of the rates levied in pursuance of the Act. Again—by Section IV. of the amending Act of 1871 (34 and 35 Vict. cap. LXXI.) “For carrying into execution the principal Act,” local boards are given the optional power of borrowing upon mortgage of the general district rate or any separate rate to be levied under the principal Act.¹

Doubtless it was upon the section of the amending Act of 1871 that the auditor based his decision in the two cases I have mentioned; I have not, however, found anything further which has enabled me to satisfy myself as to the reason for his statement that it was *compulsory* to charge the loans to the district rate, but the Local Government Board would hardly have approved the ruling unless fully satisfied as to its correctness. It may be asked whether this optional borrowing power is not restricted by the sections in the Acts which stipulate that the authority shall not expend, for the purposes of the principal Act, any greater sum in any year than one penny in the pound? This is a nice point—but in my opinion the expenses of *carrying the Acts into execution* are to be distinguished from expenditure for the *purposes* of the Acts. I feel tolerably sure that the term “carrying the Acts into execution” may legally be interpreted as covering the cost of site, or sites, buildings, and necessary fittings. The purposes of the Acts are well defined by Section XXI. of the principal Act, which sets forth that the committee or commissioners “may from time to time purchase and provide the necessary fuel, lighting, and other similar matters, books, newspapers, maps, and specimens of art and science . . . and

¹ By Section VIII. of the amending Act of 1887 (50 and 51 Vict. cap. XXII.), the approval of the Local Government Board must be obtained for all loans, that authority being substituted for H.M. Treasury.

cause the same to be bound or repaired when necessary, and appoint salaried officers and servants, and dismiss the same"

I must confess I did not know before that borough councils and local boards, after obtaining the necessary consent, could thus inaugurate their libraries in a thoroughly efficient way, enabling them to start free from debt, and consequently with the whole proceeds of the penny rate left available for working expenses. Nor do I think this is generally known to library authorities, for I have not heard of any borough which has charged loans on account of libraries to its borough fund. I am aware that many corporations help their library committees in ways more indirect, such as the gift of a free site, or by providing accommodation in municipal buildings without exacting rent. I may be too sanguine in my conception of the powers conferred by the sections mentioned, but, if in error, I trust I shall be authoritatively corrected.

Now let me come to the particular case of our own library. I have said before that a vision arose in my mind of our being able to hand over the load of debt to a quarter where it would prove not so burdensome. The saving which we should thereby have effected would have been a splendid aid to our book fund, which, I am sorry to say, is in a deplorably low state, in spite of the valuable outside assistance afforded. But, alas for my little castle built in the air! Richmond is governed, under a special Act of George III., by a Vestry, acting as Improvement Commissioners, and as such, to our disappointment, we found ourselves not empowered (probably through oversight in the drafting of the Act) to borrow upon security of the district rate. No alternative security in lieu of a borough fund is named for Improvement Districts and parishes which do not possess such a fund; and the amending Act of 1871 gives to local boards alone the privilege of borrowing by mortgage of the district rate. I ought to add that we privately obtained reliable legal advice which was entirely confirmatory of the opinion arrived at.

In the interest of library authorities sharing this disability—in this category the whole of the metropolitan parishes are included—I have ventured to bring under notice this omission in the Acts, with a view to the insertion of an amending clause in the new Bill, which will, I hope, soon be again introduced under the auspices of the Library Association. I speak as much, or more, on behalf of others as for my own committee, because a strong effort is now being made by the inhabitants of Richmond to secure a Charter of Incorporation, and if this is obtained, the whole of the loans may be consolidated, and we shall then hope to take advantage of the section of the

principal Act empowering the charging of loans on a borough fund. But if, in the time to come, this course is not thought advisable, it may be possible to introduce into a new scheme under the Municipal Corporations Act, a clause to enable the levying, with the consent of a majority of the ratepayers, of a slightly increased library rate, and I am encouraged to think that, if a poll were taken, we should not have much difficulty in obtaining such a majority, as the inhabitants are so much in sympathy with the work of the institution that they provide an addition to our income of about £150 annually by means of a voluntary penny rate.

In concluding, I wish to offer one or two remarks on the question of Rating under the Acts. The Council informed us some time ago that they considered it unadvisable to push forward the new Bill while so many places were contemplating the adoption of the Acts. Without doubt there is reason to fear that any proposal to increase the rate from one penny to two-pence will prove an obstacle to the establishment of libraries in some towns, and moreover, there will be opposition in the House of Commons. The mere mention of the words "a two-pence rate" will ensure the hostility of a large portion of the ratepaying public, but let us, in every way we can, make it plain that the sum named is simply the *maximum amount*, and intended to provide for thorough efficiency while affording protection against extravagant expenditure. We shall be satisfied when we secure to local authorities the right to vote, if they wish so to do, a larger sum for library purposes than is now allowed. We do not wish to compel them to anything—even the present penny rate is not compulsory.

The injustice against which we protest is that, however desirous the majority of the inhabitants of a town may be to supply more funds in the form of a rate contribution, they can only do so by incurring heavy expenditure in promoting a private improvement act for the purpose. Unlimited amounts may be expended upon other public institutions and improvements, but we do not ask for unlimited rating powers, only for a moderate increase; and we may be sure that the ratepayers and their elected representatives will take all necessary steps to keep under control the "expensive" and "luxurious" tastes of the library authorities.

Mr. E. B. Nicholson (Bodleian Librarian), in a paper, read at the Second Annual Meeting of the Library Association, on the "Consolidation and Amendment of the Public Libraries Acts," mentioned many defects and omissions therein, and others have since come to light. I think the time has arrived when we

should again make an energetic attempt to obtain remedial legislation.

The proposed amendment respecting the rating will not be likely to meet with less opposition in the future ; in five or even ten years hence, in all probability, the struggle will be quite as great, and we gain nothing by delay. In fact we cannot afford to wait longer than is absolutely necessary for our success, in the interest of libraries still unformed, whilst existing institutions are impoverished and their work seriously restricted. And even if we are unfortunate enough to fail in passing the rating clause, should we succeed in all the other points, it will not be an overwhelming catastrophe, for we shall then be left free to work entirely in that one direction, and by unceasing efforts we shall eventually triumph. My principal object in this paper is to elicit opinions and to glean information on the subject of library loans, and when any proposed future legislation is under discussion I hope that the questions here raised will not be overlooked.

FRANK PACY.

To Count Tolstoi.

Shakespeare of fiction, from the glowing page
of *Anna Karénina* fresh, we seem
like one who, waking from a vivid dream,
can scarce his captive fancy disengage ;
for there we felt thee with keen instinct gauge,
humanity's complex, pulsating life,
its deep heart searchings, and the angry strife
of passions that perpetually rage.

'Fore thee, oh master of thine art, behold
the wiser critic silent turns away,
nor dims with dust of words the virgin gold
of thy great works. We ask not his faint ray
to light us to the sun, nor are we bold
to seek for specks in the full blaze of day!

E. W. R.

The Stuart Exhibition at the British Museum. II.

MANUSCRIPTS (*Continued*).

Memoirs of Mary, Stuart, Queen of Scots, written by her secretary Claude Nau. In the author's handwriting.

The original draft, in French, of the Will of Mary Queen of Scots, partly in the handwriting of her secretary, Claude Nau, and with corrections and additions by the Queen herself, in her own hand.

Original report of the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, at Fotheringay Castle, endorsed by Lord Burghley "8 debru 1586 The manner of ye Q. of Scottes deth at Fodrynghay wr. by Ro. Wise." By the side of this report is a rough pen-and-ink plan, by the same hand, of the great chamber at Fotheringay Castle, fitted up for the trial of Mary Queen of Scots, 1586.

Among the more prominent manuscripts in the next case, which contains many letters and other writings of the Stuart kings of England, are the following:—

Letter of James I. of England to his son Prince Henry. About 1603.

A manuscript work, entitled "*Florum Flores*, being selections from the classical Latin poets, made and fairly written out by Charles I. when Prince of Wales, and presented by him to his father, James I., as a new-year's gift.

The original manuscript of *Basilikon Doron* or Book of the Institution of a Prince, written by King James I. of England, for the instruction of his son Charles I. In the original binding of crimson velvet, decorated with the arms of Scotland.

The original contract for the marriage of Charles, Prince of Wales, to the Infanta Maria, daughter of Philip IV. of Spain. Dated Madrid, 4th August, 1623.

Letter (about 1638) from Queen Henrietta Maria to her son Charles, Prince of Wales, in the course of which she says—

"Charles, I am sore that I most begin my first letter with chiding you because I heere that you will not take phisike. . . . If you will not, I most come to you and make you take it, for it is for your healthe. I have given order to my lord Newcastle to send me worde to-night whether you will or not, therefore I hope you will not give me the pains to goe, and so I rest.—Your affectionat Moher, HENRETTE MARIA, R."

Letter of Charles II., when Prince of Wales, to the Earl of Newcastle, his Governor. About 1638 :—

"MY LORD.—I would not have you take too much Phisick : for it doth allwaies make me worse, & I think it will do the like with you. I ride every day, and am ready to follow any other directions from you. Make haste to returne to him that loves you.—CHARLES P."

In the third case of manuscripts we may mention, as of special interest, the following :—

Letter from Prince Rupert to Sir Edward Nicholas, Secretary of State. Written partly in cipher. Dated Bristol, 5th July [1645].

Original contract for the marriage of James Stuart (styled James III.) with Maria Clementina.

Certificate of the baptism of Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Rome, 31st December, 1720.

The "Most Gracious Declaration" of James Stuart (styled James III.), addressed to all his "loving subjects," previous to the rising of 1745."

PRINTED BOOKS AND BROADSIDES.

It will be impossible to mention more than a small number of the very interesting selection of printed books, broadsides, and proclamations, which form part of the Stuart Exhibition.

There are fine copies of the following books :—

"The Historie of the Life and Death of Mary Stuart, Queene of Scotland." (By W. Stranguage, *i.e.* W. Udall) folio, London, 1624.

It may be worth while to remark that a 12mo. edition of this work in which the same dedication is signed "W. Udall," was printed in 1636.

"The Workes of the most high and mighty Prince James" (I.), folio, London, 1616.

"Reliquæ Sacræ Carolinæ. The Workes of that great monarch and glorious martyr King Charles the 1st, both civil and sacred." Octavo, Hague (1649).

Among the broadsides and single sheets, we may point out the following as objects of special interest, and worthy the notice of every visitor to the British Museum.

A letter of Charles I, to the People of Cornwall, thanking them for "their zeale for the Defence of Our Person, and the just Rights of Our Crowne Given at our Campe at Sudeley Castle, the Tenth of September, 1643."

This letter was ordered to be set up in the churches of Cornwall, where in many cases it remains until this day.

Proclamation "By the Parliament. A Proclamation for the Discovery and Apprehending of Charles Stuart, and other Traytors his Adherents and Abettors. . . . Wednesday the Tenth of September, 1651."

Charles II. "The Form of his Majesties Coronation Feast to be solemnized and kept at Westminster Hall, upon the 23 of *April*, 1661."

James II. "An Account of the Ceremonial at the Coronation of their most excellent Majesties King James II and Queen Mary at Westminster, the 23 of April, 1685."

James II. "An Elegy on the Death of James the Second, late King of England." Folio, London, 1701.

This sheet is enclosed in a broad black border, whereon are the royal arms of England and the letters "W. R." and at the sides are very curious figures of death.

Ballad. "The Black-Bird, or the Flower of England Flowne."

Date 1718(?)

It is surmounted by two quaint woodcuts. The name "Black-Bird" was frequently applied to Prince James Francis Edward, commonly known as the Chevalier de St. George, or "the Pretender."

In one of the cases is exhibited a curious memorial of the flight of Charles I from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight, in November, 1647. It is a volume containing tracts printed in 1643, and relating to political affairs. Some of its pages have been soiled by the book having fallen upon the ground. According to a manuscript note made in it by its former possessor, George Thomason, this volume was borrowed by Charles I while at Hampton Court, in October or November, 1647, and by him let "fall in y^e dirt" on Southampton Pier, whilst on his way to Carisbrook Castle, where he was imprisoned, November 14, 1647. The leaves of the book bear the marks of that fall, and the volume is justly considered a great historical curiosity.

The Laird of Glengarry was a great supporter of the Stuart cause, and his prayer book is among the many interesting books and papers in the Stuart Exhibition. Upon the fly leaf of the volume is written the deposition of Ensign George Ogilvie, to the effect that on the 26th of May, 1746, he found this book in the Castle of the Laird of Glengarry (Alaister Macdonell). Throughout the book the "State Prayers" have been revised. "James" has been substituted for "George," in the prayers for the King; "Charles" for "George, Prince of Wales," and "Queen Clementina," for "the Princess of Wales." These alterations have been made by means of printed slips of paper carefully pasted over the original names.

A portion of one of the cases is devoted to the exhibition of some handsomely bound books, of which the following may be mentioned.

"The Actis and Constitutions of the Realme of Scotland."
Folio, Edinburgh, 1566.

This copy formerly belonged to Mary Queen of Scots, and bears the royal arms of Scotland on the cover, together with other enrichments in gold. The binding is of black or very dark blue cloth.

"Politicorum Libri Decem. Authore A. Contzen." Folio,
Moguntiae (1621).

This is a handsome volume bound in citron morocco, richly tooled in gold. The chief part of the side is covered with representations of the thistle and fleur-de-lis alternately arranged. A rich border runs round the book, and the arms commonly used by James I of England are impressed upon the cover.

Examples of binding ornamented with the arms of Charles I: Prince James Francis Edward (son of James I); Prince Henry Benedict, Cardinal, Duke of York; and Charles II are also shown.

A duodecimo copy of Sternhold and Hopkins's "Whole Book of the Psalmes," London, 1643, with embroidered binding enriched with a portrait in needlework of Charles I, on each cover, is worthy of careful notice. The monogram "C. R." is worked in silver thread near the portrait.

In the same case is placed a highly-finished miniature portrait of Mary Queen of Scots. It is an original portrait of great interest and value, and was presented to the British Museum by Elizabeth Douglas Hamilton, Countess Dowager Brooke, and Countess Dowager of Warwick. It is framed in ebony, and has the letters "M. R. S." written in gold at each corner.



The Battersea Public Library.

WE believe it will be of interest to the readers of the *Library*, and of some value for reference, to give a description with plans of one of the most complete and well constructed of the New Free Libraries of London. For the plans we are indebted to the courtesy of the Editor of the *Builder*, and for the description to the Librarian, Mr. Lawrence Inkster.

There are to be three libraries in Battersea, the first of which is already open, and the Central Library is now in course of erection on Lavender Hill, near Clapham Junction. From the accompanying plans it will be seen that the architect (Mr. E. W. Mountford) has done his best to make the Central Library, not only well-adapted to the present requirements of the Institution, but capable of meeting all the demands which may be made upon it for many years to come.

Those departments which are likely to be most popular are placed on the ground floor; the news-room, with area of 1,030 feet, and well lighted on two sides, being on the right of the main entrance, and the magazine room (890 feet) on the left. The lending library (1,900 feet) extends across the rear of the building, and is lighted on three sides. Accommodation is provided in this room for 30,000 volumes, and the service counter will be 50 feet long. Between the lending library and the news room is the librarian's office (400 feet), with easy supervision of the three public rooms, and communicating with the private entrance to the librarian's residence.

A stone staircase leads to the reference library on the first floor, which has an area of 2,080 feet, and being placed immediately over the lending library at the back of the building is cut off from the noise of the street. It is lighted from the top, the four walls being entirely devoted to the shelving of books, and, with the gallery, accommodation can be found for over 20,000 volumes. On the same floor are placed the ladies' reading room (400 feet), and a large book store connected with the reference library capable of containing 25,000 volumes.

On the second floor, communicating with the gallery of the reference library, is another book store of the same dimensions as the one beneath, and a larger one is placed in the basement immediately under the lending library with accommodation for about 35,000 volumes. The total capacity of the building is estimated at

135,000 volumes, but it is believed that a much larger number could be conveniently stored ; and, unless the growth of the library should in the future very much exceed present anticipations, there will be plenty of room for the accessions of the next forty or fifty years.

In the basement are the caretaker's rooms, heating-chamber, work-room and mess-room for the library assistants ; and the librarian's residence occupies part of the first, second, and third floors, with a private entrance in the west front of the building.

Lifts are provided for conveying books from one floor to another, and the various departments are connected by speaking tubes and electric bells. The public rooms will be warmed by hot-water and lighted by gas, the products of combustion being as far as possible carried out of the building by ventilating shafts, and Tobin's tubes are used for the introduction of fresh air.

The principal elevations, though plain, are graceful and pleasing ; the materials used being red brick with Portland stone dressings. The public staircases are of stone, and the vestibule and entrance hall are tiled.

It is hoped that the work of erection will be completed by the end of the present year.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Obituary.

THE LATE RICHARD H. SUTTON.

With deep regret we record the death of Mr. Richard H. Sutton, bookseller and publisher, of Manchester. As a bookseller, Mr. Sutton was a notable example of the best traditions of the trade, and displayed a literary taste and judgment in striking contrast to the merely commercial abilities of many of his brother tradesmen. His father, Mr. Thomas Sutton, was a well-known Manchester bookseller, and that he too had a love for the wares he dealt in, not measured by their market value, is evidenced by the fact that two of his sons chose to follow his example and spend their lives among books; one, the subject of this note, as a bookseller, and the other, Mr. Charles W. Sutton, as a librarian, now the much esteemed chief of the Manchester Public Libraries.

Mr. Richard H. Sutton was one of the original members of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society and of the Library Association, and among the members of these societies, as well as among a larger circle of acquaintances, his gentle and thoughtful disposition won him many friends. His tastes were decidedly antiquarian, and his publishing ventures were chiefly of that character. Only a few days before his death he published an admirable reprint of Mrs. Raffalds' curious and very rare Directory of Manchester.

Collectors all over the world looked eagerly for Mr. Sutton's catalogues of second-hand books, and preserved them, for not only were they accurate and trustworthy in the description of his wares, but the extensive knowledge and good taste displayed in the numerous notes, gave his lists a permanent value for reference.

Mr. Sutton had been ailing for some months, and a short time ago went to reside at Colwyn Bay in the hope that pure air and rest would renew his strength, but becoming gradually worse he returned home, and a few days after (March 3rd), passed away. He was buried at Brooklands four days later, Canon Tonge officiating, and the mourners who gathered at his grave-side, bore ample testimony to the affection and respect in which the dead was held.

Oxford Notes.

OXFORD: BODLEIAN LIBRARY. There are few more striking scenes in ancient history than the death of Pliny the elder, as described by his nephew. The same eruption of Vesuvius which killed Pliny in A.D. 79, also overwhelmed the whole town of Herculaneum, burying its houses and inhabitants beneath a stream of molten lava. The intense heat reduced even the papyrus rolls in the libraries to a black calcined state, hardly less brittle than burnt paper. In A.D. 1752 these rolls were discovered in large numbers, chiefly in one house, and many efforts have been made since then to unroll and read them. The extreme delicacy of the process can be imagined, but even with all scientific help it has often been found necessary to destroy each outer ring of papyrus in succession before reaching the next interior one. Moreover, the papyri themselves, since they were unrolled, have sustained damage, especially when the French occupied Naples, where the unrolling chiefly took place, in 1806. It will now be understood how

important the first facsimiles are, which were taken as soon as ever the rolls were rendered legible. These earliest were chiefly made under the charge of the Rev. John Hayter, at the expense of George IV, then (1802-1806) Prince of Wales, and were presented in 1810 to the Bodleian. The Naples facsimiles were made later, and are in many cases almost necessarily inferior. Many of the Oxford and Naples facsimiles have been engraved and published, and scholars have been busy restoring by their aid certain new Greek Epicurean treatises, principally by Philodemus. The Oxford Philological Society has now determined to devote a considerable sum of money, which has accumulated in its hands, to the reproduction by a permanent photographic process of the 800 or so leaves which remain in the Bodleian unengraved. Six sets of these photographs will be prepared, for presentation to the National Library at Naples and other continental libraries, and further supplies can be obtained in any quantity at a fixed price from the negatives, which are to be taken. By this means students will be enabled to compare for themselves in certain large centres of literary activity, the Oxford and the Naples copies of these precious relics of antiquity. When we remember that every letter now to be reproduced was written down at latest in the reign of the Emperor Titus, it is easier to realize the comparative value of these manuscripts for critical purposes. The Society may be congratulated on the devotion of its funds to such a purpose, and the Bodleian on the opportunity of placing one more of its treasures beyond the reach of accidental destruction.

Library Notes and News.

BOLTON.—Mr. John Heywood, M.A., J.P., has recently presented 300 volumes to the Public Free Library. The same gentleman gave the site of the High Street branch library.

BRADFORD.—A new branch of the Bradford Free Library was opened on Jan. 21, at the Free Street school-room, Otley Road.

BRECHIN.—An offer of £5000 was recently been made to the town in order to build a Free Library. The donor has been approached to ascertain if he would be pleased to alter the condition which insists that the whole money shall be applied in building, which, however, he has refused to do. Under these circumstances the Town Council has appointed a Committee to confer with the managers of the Mechanics' Library, and obtain such other information as might enable the Council to decide on the matter previous to appealing to the inhabitants.

CHIPPENHAM.—The *Western Daily Press* reports a public meeting, in aid of the Free Library at Chippenham, held on December 15, at which the speeches were chiefly political. It is not stated how much money was raised by this curious proceeding.

GLASGOW.—Mr. Franklin T. Barrett of Baillie's Institution Free Library, has been appointed to catalogue the important Library of the Free Church College. The catalogue is to be a card one.

HUCKNALL TORKARD, NOTTS.—The Free Library here was built by Mr. J. E. Ellis, M.P. and Mr. H. B. Paget, owners of the Hucknall Collieries. The reading-room and a recreation room were opened early in 1888, and the specified plan was completed on the last day of the year by the opening of the lending library. The occasion was celebrated by a conversazione, and addresses were delivered by Mr. F. N. Ellis, Mr. J. P. Briscoe, and others. The catalogue has been compiled and the library formed under the supervision of Mr. J. P. Briscoe.

KENDAL.—An offer has been made by a gentleman, whose name is withheld, of £500, on condition that an additional £2,000 is raised, either by the Corporation or private persons, for the founding of a free library for Kendal.

LEEDS.—In response to an application made, a valuable donation of books to the Public Library has been received from the Astronomer Royal.

LIMERICK. The Acts have been adopted here. For this result thanks are chiefly due to the enthusiasm and energy of the Mayor and Mr. Lane Joynt.

LIVERPOOL.—Consequent upon the resignation of Mr. D. C. Chapman, as librarian of "The Athenæum," Mr. George T. Shaw, assistant-librarian, has been promoted to the librarianship. Mr. Chapman held the appointment about three years, having previously been librarian at Hereford.

LONDON: ALLAN LIBRARY.—The Wesleyan Publishing Department has secured a site for a new building to contain the Allan Library, which is described as one of the most important Biblical collections in London. It has been hitherto practically useless through being hidden away in an almost inaccessible region.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—The Rev. C. E. Escreet, Vicar of St. Andrew's. Stockwell, an earnest advocate of Free Libraries, has handed over to the Lambeth Free Library fund, the share to which he is entitled, like the rest of the Lambeth clergy, of the fees for burial in the consecrated part of Tooting Cemetery.

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—The Paddington Free Library, which was founded by voluntary subscriptions, and opened in June last by Lord and Lady Coleridge, seems to be doing good work. A unique as well as most valuable feature appears to be that outside the building are posted daily, and at a very early hour, all the advertisement sheets of the newspapers announcing situations vacant, and which are of great service to hundreds. Mr. W. H. Wills has been elected chairman of the committee. Mr. Lionel B. Lewis, of Sutherland Avenue, W., has just presented to this Library the complete set of the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, together with a handsome walnut case for their reception, in memory of his late mother, Caroline Lewis.

LONDON: ST. GEORGE'S (HANOVER SQUARE).—On January 17, the committee appointed to consider the advisability, or otherwise, of adopting the Public Libraries' Act, recommended the establishment of free libraries in the parish. By a large majority the report was approved, and a vote of the rate-payers will consequently be taken in the course of a few months.

LONDON: ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.—The temporary newsroom at 107, Long Acre, which was opened on New Year's day, is crowded daily. The attendance has risen several times to 900.

LONDON.—The Royal Courts of Justice Library, which was established in June, 1884, now contains more than 8,000 volumes. It has recently acquired by gift 220 volumes of the Record publications.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. H. Rawson, while presiding at a recent lecture at the Manchester Free Library, stated that lectures were no innovation in connection with that institution, but that a course was delivered there so long ago as the winter of 1852-3, shortly after the opening of the Library. Mr. Rawson read a letter, dated September 7, 1852, written by the late Professor A. J. Scott, then Principal of Owens College, in which a series of bibliographical lectures, dealing with the different departments of literature, was suggested. Professor Scott himself delivered a course of addresses on the Literature of Poetry and Fiction.

MANCHESTER.—During last year the circulation of books and periodicals at the Portico Library was 14,064, against 13,356 during the previous year.

MANCHESTER.—*The Manchester City News* for Jan. 26 contains an illustrated article on the library of Chetham's Hospital.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Accommodation for the free library has been provided in the new Town Hall and Municipal Buildings which were opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales on Jan. 23rd.

MIDDLEWICH.—The rate-payers of Middlewich, on February 7th, unanimously resolved to adopt the Libraries Acts. An address on the advantages of free libraries was given by Mr. Brunner, M.P., who started a subscription list for the formation of the library with the gift of £100. Suitable buildings have been provided by Col. France-Hayhurst and Canon France-Hayhurst.

NOTTINGHAM.—Consequent upon a notice of motion to establish another (the eleventh) branch reading-room, the Town Council has decided to ask the library committee to report upon the question of providing still more reading-rooms. The value of these branches was spoken of in the highest terms. The library committee, through the chairman, suggested that additional funds were required to extend the system further. This difficulty will most probably be removed by the Town Council.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Central Free Library building continues to be closed during extensive structural alterations, and will remain so until near midsummer.

PENZANCE.—Prebendary Hedgeland having resigned the (honorary) librarianship of the Penzance (Proprietary) Library, has been elected president. More room is required for the growth of the library, but Mr. Hedgeland earnestly and properly protests against a proposal to make room for new books by weeding out "worthless" books, meaning such as are at present not in request.

TAMWORTH.—The Town Council have decided to have new municipal buildings and assembly rooms for the borough. In the plans, provision is made for a Free Library.

WREXHAM.—The Free Library Committee have received a donation of £400 from the surplus of the recent Eisteddfod. It is being expended in new books.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Dundee Free Library. Report . . . to the Town Council of Dundee, November, 1888. pp. 26.

Through the removal of the incubus of debt by the generosity of Mr. Keiller who gave £9,830, and of Sir David Baxter who gave £1,000, the year reported upon was the most prosperous the "Albert Institute" had ever experienced. There were 293,515 vols. issued—an increase of 10,528 over the issues for the previous year. The percentage of issues of works of fiction was 48·836; and, in the Reference Library fully 87 per cent. of the issues were works of science and the arts and miscellaneous literature. The loss of books was nominal. The lending library contains 37,027 vols. and the reference library 15,724, of which number 1,868 were added during the year. The subscription library contributed books which originally cost £246. The Museum and Art Gallery maintain their popularity.

Nottingham. Fifty-first Annual Report of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution. [1888].

This institution is one of the most popular in the United Kingdom, and is conducted with great energy. There is a membership of 3,479, whose subscriptions exceed £1,000 a year. The library contains 18,370 vols., of which number 2,465 were added during the year. Owing, no doubt, to the members having direct access to the shelves, no less than 1,203 vols. were missed at stock-taking: many of these probably being three-volume novels. £662 was expended in the purchase of books and periodicals. The circulation of books reached 86,225 vols., being an increase on the previous year's issue of 4,555. Of the total 67,177 vols. are works of fiction. It is gratifying to note substantial increases in the circulation of works of history, travel, science, and art. The local library exceeds 1,500 items. There are 297 papers and periodicals now furnished. The library premises have been re-decorated. More shelf room is required.

Nottingham. Free Public Libraries. List of Books in the Children's Lending Library, with the Rules. Third Edition. Price One Penny. Royal 8vo, pp. 20.

This is a carefully compiled and well printed single-entry catalogue of the 3,200 vols. which comprise the children's library at Nottingham; and is printed in brier type in double columns. It is better printed than the second edition, and contains fewer capitals. This list consists of twenty pages, is sold at the low price of one penny per copy, and is of value to those who are forming or enlarging their collections of books for juveniles of both sexes. The library is in charge of a lady under the direction of Mr. Briscoe.

Salford. Fortieth Annual Report of the Museum, Libraries and Parks Committee. 1887-8. pp. 30.

The Peel Park Reference and Lending Libraries contain 43,957, and 12,986 vols. respectively; and the three branch lending libraries, bring up a total stock to 85,890 vols. The total issues for the year were 350,245 vols., against 335,005 vols. There was a small falling off in the issues at the central libraries, and an increase in those of each of the branches. Ten years ago, and for the four following years, the issues were greater than last year. The daily average of issues in the reference library was 168 vols., and 270 vols. in the three branches; and from the four lending libraries 715 vols., of which 100, the lowest, are from the central library in Peel Park. The total daily average of readers was 2,138. There are about 7,114 actual borrowers. £374. was expended in books, £168. in newspapers and magazines, and £203. in binding. The receipts by fines and sales at the libraries and museum amounted to £149. The daily average attendance at the latter was 952.

Sheffield. Thirty-second Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Libraries and Museum of the Borough of Sheffield. . . . Sept. 1, 1887—Aug. 31, 1888. pp. 18.

"The serious epidemic of small-pox much diminished the usefulness of the libraries during the past year. Acting upon the advice of the Medical Officer of Health," they were closed from November 9, 1887, to May 2, 1888. During that period all the books in circulation were disinfected. The daily average issues for the broken year were 1,430 vols. in the five lending libraries. More specifications of patents—7,440—were consulted than in the previous year. The central lending library

stock is now 30,003 vols.; of the reference library, 12,216 vols.; and the branches, 14,110, 14,046, 12,849, and 6,216 vols. respectively. The want of space in the reference library and reading room continues to be the cause of considerable complaint. The reference library catalogue is anticipated to be ready early in the present year. The Committee record their satisfaction that the Town Council has decided to ask for an additional penny rate for library and museum purposes. The visitors to the museum and Mappin Art Gallery numbered 234,583, being a daily average attendance of 902. There were 7,447 attendances on one certain day. The observatory was only open ten nights from October to January, there being 115 visitors.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

A catalogue of fifteen hundred books, remarkable for the beauty or the age of their bindings, or as bearing indications of former ownership by great book collectors and famous historical personages. London: B. Quaritch, 1889. Large 8vo, pp. xvi, 1-200, and (Indexes) 201-22.

Mr. Quaritch's catalogue is a noteworthy production, deserving to be regarded as a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the art with which it deals. It has no pretension to be considered as a work of bibliography, but the notes scattered here and there on its pages merit recognition as valuable additions to the history of the subject. The most wonderful feature of the catalogue is the great number of specimens of ornamental binding done in the 16th and 17th centuries; nothing, perhaps, being more difficult to collect, in consequence of their rarity and the rivalry of museums and private libraries. The classification of the bindings is skilfully accomplished: a well-written preface gives, in a few pages, a summary review of the history of binding as an ornamental art. There are several indexes at the end, that of "owners" and that of "binders" being novelties of no slight interest. Although his name is nowhere mentioned, it is an open secret that the arrangement, the preface and the notes, are due to Mr. Michael Kerney.

Remarkable bindings in the British Museum, selected for their rarity or historic interest and described by Henry B. Wheatley. London: Sampson Low, 1889. 4to, pp. xv. 143. Only 150 copies printed.

The inception of this work is from Mr. Joseph Cundall. The sixty-two excellent plates were taken at the British Museum by Mr. L. B. Fleming, by the ortho-chromatic process, and printed in monotyp by Messrs. Aron, Frères, of Paris, under the superintendence of M. Léon Gruel. The letter-press, by Mr. Wheatley, is of a descriptive character, and does not profess to contribute to our knowledge of the antiquities of bookbinding, an art which waits in vain for a systematic historian.

A Bibliography of Indian Geology: being a list of Books and Papers, relating to the Geology of British India and adjoining Countries, published previous to the end of A.D. 1887. Compiled by R. D. Oldham. Preliminary issue. La. 8vo, Calcutta, 1888.

This list of papers on Indian Geology, was prepared by Mr. Oldham for his personal use, and, on its completion, was presented by the compiler to the Geological Survey of India. Although not issued in separate form, it is to be re-published as one of the publications of the Survey. The

utility of the book would be greatly increased, if in the re-issue, the entries were arranged under subjects. At present it is a simple alphabetical list of authors, and as such is not of much use to anyone in search of information on any definite subject of Indian Geology. About 120 periodicals have been searched for the purposes of this bibliography; the absence of some journals and books containing information on the subject, is accounted for by the fact, that the work has been compiled in India. There is one point of novelty in the arrangement: "Papers of joint authorship are indexed according to that author's name, which has alphabetical priority. They are, however, repeated if necessary, after the papers of which the other author may be the sole writer." It is hardly necessary to point out the inconvenience of this arrangement. There are eleven papers under Falconer and Cautley: the titles of these are repeated in full under Cautley and Falconer, so that it is quite impossible to tell the order of authors' names in the paper itself. This double printing is adopted in all cases of joint-authorship, and unnecessarily adds both to the bulk, and to the cost of the book.

Copenhagen. Aarsberetninger og Meddelelser fra det Store Kongelige Bibliothek, udgivne af Chr. Bruun, bibliotekar. III binds, 13 hefte. Kjobenhavn, 1889. 8vo, pp. cccxxi-lvi, 257-272.

This contains the annual reports and financial statements for 1886-88, and the continuation of a descriptive account of the illuminated manuscripts in the library.

Lichfield. Catalogue of the printed books and MSS. in the Library of the Cathedral Church, Lichfield. 8vo, pp. 127. Price 1s.

The library contains about 4,500 vols., among them being many bibles.

The Catalogue of the Tōkyō Medical Library. Sei-I-Kwai, No. 6 Shin Sakana Cho, Kyōbashi Ku. Tōkyō, 1888. 8vo, pp. x, 46.

A most interesting pamphlet. The rules are brief, but clear and to the point. The catalogue is a subject one, printed in double columns. The scheme of classification is comprehensive enough to embrace a much larger collection than the present one, and the plan of giving the headings not yet represented, is useful and should be suggestive to possible donors. A too faithful and somewhat mistaken obedience to the Library Association rules, has led the compiler to give each volume of a series a separate line, thus "The Same—Vol. 54, &c.," so that in one instance a single series fills a page. It is gratifying to find that a large majority of the books are English.

Webster's Synopsis of sizes of paper for determining at sight the sizes of the various papers and their sub-divisions to 40's; also a new and simple method of ascertaining sizes smaller than 40's ...

J. Webster ... *Visiter* Office, Southport ... la. fo. broadside [1888?]

Whilst the Library Association has, apparently, given up the attempt to describe the size of a book, the printers are continually engaged in the task of exactly reproducing it, and this sheet has been issued with the object of assisting them in doing so. It is in two parts, of which the first shows, in tabular form, the exact dimensions of the page produced by each of 34 different foldings of 22 sizes of paper. The folds range from folio to 40's, and, among so many, there are naturally some, such as thirds, 5mo, and 9's—we reproduce Mr. Webster's notation—which are not commonly heard of, even in the printing office. The papers vary from quad royal—a

sheet of 50 in. by 40 in.—down to pott, which measures only 15 in. by 12½ in. The object of the *Synopsis* is chiefly to enable the printer, on receipt of an order, to ascertain what size of paper must be used to produce, when folded, the dimensions required; and when, as must frequently happen, he has not that paper in stock, what other sizes can be made, with a different fold, to give the same, or nearly the same result. In the second part, therefore, the 748 sizes are arranged in series, as a sort of index to the table. From this index we find, to take a dip at random, that there are 77 denominations for books of 7½ in. to 8½ in. in height, from “sheet & ⅓ foolscap long 18’s,” which is only 2½ in. wide, to “Quad royal 30’s” which is very nearly square. To take an example, it appears that there are 32 ways of producing a book of 7½ in., and that such a book may have 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24 or 32 leaves to a sheet, according to the size of paper used.

These quotations will be sufficient to indicate the style of “notation” which would be involved in the use of the *Synopsis* for cataloguing purposes. The briefest glance at it is sufficient to prove—and this is the lesson we would draw—that any attempt to describe modern books according to the actual size and fold of the paper which the printer has used must end in failure. The necessary allowance for cutting only aggravates the confusion, and it is clear that any scheme of size notation, short of the statement of actual dimensions, must, to be practical, be more or less arbitrary and conventional.

We have a word or two of criticism to add. The table, elaborate as it is, does not appear to be quite complete. By the same post we received a publisher’s announcement of a book to be printed in “extra post” folio, a size of paper not mentioned in the *Synopsis*. We then tried to ascertain what paper Messrs. Davy and Sons print us upon, but we failed to find any size which did not differ by half an inch or more from the dimensions of *The Library*. We do not instance this as an omission, but as an indication of the impossibility of providing in advance for every new development. The plan adopted of stating the width before the height, as “5½ by 8½ demy 8vo,” is contrary to our experience, and, we think, to the general practice. The word “fold,” also, is used in a way which is confusing and hardly correct.

Mr. Geo. Gatfield, of the department of MSS., British Museum, is about to publish by subscription, *A guide to printed books and MSS. relating to English and Foreign Heraldry and Genealogy*. It will consist of a classified catalogue of books in those branches of literature, and will supplement the works of Sims, Marshall, Anderson and other authorities.

A “Bibliographical Introduction” is prefixed to *Characteristics from the writings of Abp. Ullathorne*, arranged by the Rev. M. F. Glancey, (London: Burns and Oates, 1889. Cr. 8vo, pp. 342.)

If any fresh arguments were needed to support the proposed “Bibliography of National History,” one might be found in a recently published book: *Chronicle of King Henry VIII of England, a contemporary record written in Spanish*, translated by M. A. Sharpe Hume (Bell, 1889, sm. 8vo.) Mr. Hume, as well as his reviewers, appear to be unaware that an excellent edition of the original chronicle was printed at Madrid in 1874, by the Marquis de Molins.

P. Strauch has reprinted from the *Zeitschrift für deutsches Alterthum* his list of modern German scientific publications appearing in 1887.

A Dictionary of Russian Authors is about to be published by S. A. Vengesoff, with the help of a large body of *collaborateurs*. It will extend to 200 parts.

Among recent bibliographies of the life and writings of individuals may be mentioned:—*G. Crabbe*, by J. P. Anderson (in T. E. Kebbel's *Life*, London, 1888, sm. 8vo); *P. Desforges-Maillard*, by A. de la Borderie and René Kerviler (Nantes, 1888, 4to, pp. 204); *Geoffroy de Vigeois*, by Arbellot (Limoges, 1888, 8vo, pp. 31); *Jeanne d'Arc*, by J. L. d'Arc (Paris, 1888, 8vo, pp. 263); *Lavoisier*, by E. Grimaux (Paris, 1888, 8vo, pp. 336-364); *Alex. Malbranch*, by E. Niel (Rouen, 1888, 8vo, pp. 22); *J. S. Mill*, by J. P. Anderson (in W. L. Courtney's *Life*, London, 1888, sm. 8vo); *Schiller*, by J. P. Anderson (in H. W. Nevins's *Life*, London, 1889, sm. 8vo); *Comte Georges de Soultrait*, by Roger de Quirielle (Moulins, 8vo, pp. 18 and portrait); *Abbé Vitrac*, by Arbellot (Limoges, 1888, 8vo, pp. 24); *Giacomo Zanella*, by G. Biadego (Lucca, 1888, 8vo, pp. 42).

Professor C. Castellani is about to publish two small works, one on the history of printing at Venice down to the death of the elder Aldus Manutius, and the other on the invention of the art of typography.

The Library Bureau (Boston, U.S.) is about to publish *Rules for Author and Classed Catalogues as used in Columbia College Library*, edited by Mr. Melvil Dewey, with a bibliography of cataloguing rules by Miss M. S. Cutler. The rules are based upon the American Library Association code, and will be explained by graphic examples of all kinds of difficulties.

The late Prof. Delius, the Shakespearean scholar, has bequeathed his library to the Stadtbibliothek of Bremen.

Correspondence.

THE OLDEST CIRCULATING LIBRARY IN EUROPE.

SIR,—In reply to "A. W." I may be permitted to say that in a paper read at the monthly meeting of the Library Association in February, 1887, I showed that Allan Ramsay established a circulating library in 1725, at the "Mercury," opposite the Cross-well, Edinburgh. This library changed hands in 1757 (Yair), 1780 (Sibbald), 1806 (Mackay), and was sold in 1831 and dispersed.

In 1740 the circulating library from whence I now write was founded by Wright, at 132, Strand. It was removed here about the year 1800, the premises being wanted for the approach to the Regent (now Waterloo) Bridge. It was successively owned by Wright, Bathoe, Bell, and Cawthorn, grandfather of the gentleman whose name now heads the firm's designation. Some of the books which were in use in this library at its first establishment are still issued to its subscribers.

My paper also showed a greatly earlier antiquity for the custom of booksellers lending their books on hire. *Vide Nevile's Poor Scholar*, 1662: *Pege*.—"Step to a booksellers and give him this angel, which I'll lend you; for the use of the many-languaged bibles lately publish't for a week. Their price is 12 pound. When you have got um to your study, invite your father to your chamber, show him your library and tell him you are 12 pound out of purse for those large volumes." Also in an advertisement at the end of the play of *The Thracian Wonder*, 1661: "Books may be read for a reasonable consideration."

I need only mention Robert Watts (1746) at Cambridge and William Hutton (1751) at Birmingham for early circulating librarians.

JOSEPH GILBERT,

Chief Librarian, Cawthorn & Hutt's "British Library."

24, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, and in *The Library Chronicle*. Its official organ is now *The Library*, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

The last Monthly Meeting was held on Monday, March 12, in the hall of Sion College, Victoria Embankment, by the kind invitation of the Rev. W. H. Milman, the librarian. The President occupied the chair. The Secretaries announced that the following gentlemen had joined the Association:—Mr. W. Carnegie, Mr. William Carter, Mr. George Clinch, Mr. Newton, Mr. G. H. Overend.

Mr. W. R. J. Molloy, F.S.S., M.R.I.A., Chief of Inspection, National Education Board, Dublin, was elected a member. The following gentlemen were proposed for election at the next meeting:—Mr. Josiah Marples, Mr. George Whale, Mr. W. A. Coppinger, Mr. W. R. MacDonald.

Mr. Milman delivered an interesting address descriptive of the history and organization of the College. Some of the bibliographical treasures were exhibited in the large library, and the members visited the various rooms devoted to the storage of books. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Milman terminated a very pleasant evening.

The next MONTHLY MEETING will be held in the Guildhall Library, on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th, at 7.30 p.m., by the kind invitation of the chairman, Edgar Francis Jenkins, Esq. Papers will be read:—"The Guildhall Library and its work," by Mr. Charles Welch, the librarian; and "Free Public Libraries for London," by Mr. E. C. Thomas.

A Meeting of Council will be held at 7.15 p.m.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 6a, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Printed for the Publisher, by J. DAVY & SONS, at the DRYDEN PRESS, 137, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The Library.

A BILL TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS.

A PRIZE OFFERED.

IT is our intention to offer a Series of Prizes for Essays on important Library questions, and, as of first and most pressing importance, we have pleasure in announcing that A PRIZE OF TEN POUNDS will be given for the best

DRAFT OF A FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL,

which shall include what is most worth keeping in the existing Acts and contain the best suggestions for new legislation.

The Competition will be an open one. Drafts should be signed with a pseudonym or motto only, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope inscribed with the pseudonym or motto, containing the author's name and address. They must be sent in not later than JULY 31st. It is proposed to announce the result at the next Annual Meeting of the Library Association, when the successful Bill will be read and discussed. The names of the Judges and other particulars will be announced next month.

Some Curiosities of the Oxford Press.¹

THE London press will for many years to come lack a historian, the work being so vast and the materials at present so little prepared. The concluding volume of Mr. Arber's *Transcript of the Stationers' Register* will be the greatest step taken in this direction since Dibdin's edition of Herbert's "Ames"; but even this will cease before reaching that trackless wilderness, the literature of the Civil War. And yet the intelligent study of an active Press brings the enquirer into close connexion with the literary history of the place and time, and throws new and unexpected light on it. The mere perusal of the prefaces and dedications of local books discloses more details, both personal and of general interest, than could be suspected before trial. But until a bibliographer arises who shall deal with London and Westminster we must be content to study the more manageable local presses.

Among these a very high position may without arrogance be claimed for Oxford. Its fifteenth and early sixteenth century presses are full of interest; during the Civil War it was for some time the fountain-head of Royalist literature; and the Clarendon Press, as well as its predecessor at the Sheldonian, has at all times, to say the least, fully satisfied the typographical requirements of the University. The present paper will aim at giving a brief sketch of the fortunes of the Oxford Press, with special allusion to a few of the curiosities connected with it.

I. THE EXPOSITIO HIERONYMI, 1468.

As with almost all early presses, the beginning of Oxford printing is wrapped in obscurity. The first fact which emerges is the little octavo treatise, beginning "Incipit expositio sancti Ieronimi [really *Rufini*] in symbolum apostolorum ad papam laurentium," and ending with the famous colophon "Explicit expositio . . . Impressa Oxonie et finita anno domini M.CCCC.LXVIII. XVII die decembris." Considering that Caxton's first printing at Westminster was in 1472, and that the next book known to have been printed at Oxford, is dated 1479, we need not wonder that, as soon as criticism was applied to the matter, doubts were expressed whether 1468 were not an error

¹ Based on a paper read before the Library Association.

for 1478, an *x* having been omitted. And the two masters of English typography, Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Blades, have both satisfied themselves that the true date is 1478. I cannot but think that the game is not yet played out, and that in view of the precarious nature of early presses, and the suspicion with which they were regarded by the authorities, certainty is not yet attainable, either that the date is wrong or that, if it be wrong, the true date is 1478. The reasons against the printed date are so commonly stated, as by Mr. Blades in the *Antiquary*, vol. iii, No. 13 (January, 1881), that in an unscientific paper like the present, they need not be categorically repeated: let me here rather show the strength of the unpopular side.

1. The date stands as 1468, and the *onus probandi*, or rather *improbandi*, rests entirely with the opponents of that date. Moreover in no one of 12 out of the 14 known copies of the book (two I have not seen) is there any contemporary manuscript correction of so startling an error, if error it be, whereas in the colophon of the *Aegidius* of 1479, where two misprints occur, all the three known copies were carefully corrected in writing before they left the press.

2. There are clear marks of progress in the two 1479 books compared with the *Expositio*, the three, it should be stated, being generally similar in type and form. These marks are:—*a*, the latter books are always even at the right-hand edge of each page of type, while the 1468 book is often uneven: *b*, the letters Q, H, g, are nearly always used wrongly in the first book, usually or always rightly in the later ones: *c*, more symbols are in use in the later books, showing an extended fount of type: *d*, red ink is used in 1479 printing: *e*, the 1468 book begins its type on sign. a1, the other two on sign. a2: *f*, the two latter books were printed two pages at a time, the first *one* page only at a time: *g*, two of the seven watermarks in the 1468 paper are not found again in Oxford printing.

3. A forgery by Atkins in his *Original and Growth of Printing* (Lond., 1664, 4to), made deliberately and with a definite political purpose, by which he tells, with many self-contradictions, how one Corsellis was secretly brought to Oxford and induced to print in 1468, has undoubtedly tended to throw discredit on the book, just as Camden's forgery, about Grimbold and the crypt of St. Peter's-in-the-East at Oxford, made some people at last doubt if there were an ancient crypt there at all.

4. The chief objections are not fatal. The most formidable is the use of signatures, which were not "invented" till 1472. This statement simply means that printed signatures have not been observed before that date. Students of early printing are not always, as they

should be, conversant with manuscripts and their peculiarities. It may even be a surprise to some to know that signatures precisely similar to the early printed ones are constantly found in 15th century MSS., with the sole difference that the exigencies of printing require that they should be close to the printed part of the page, and not at the outer edge of the lower margin. I see no insuperable reason why the easy transference from manuscript to type should not have taken place in 1468. Next we are told that the cessation for eleven years (1468 to 1479) requires explanation. Perhaps so; but what if the records which would afford it have perished? The University records and registers practically do not exist for that period, and we cannot expect at present to know what Chancellor's or Commissary's or Proctor's hand fell on the peccant type and forms and paper, and locked them up in St. Mary's. But I would say that the probability is that, if a book *was* printed at Oxford in 1468, it was regarded as heretical, magical, or otherwise dangerous, and the printer made to drink his own ink and eat his inking-balls by decree of Convocation. The difficulty rather is why printing was allowed to be resumed so early as 1479. The old type, and even some of the paper, were ready for use, but who would be hardy enough to begin? The utmost that I am pleading is that the question should not be regarded as settled, and that the book should still be regarded as a veritable curiosity.

The 15 fifteenth-century Oxford books, with their seven kinds of type, belong to the years "1468," 1479 (2), 1480?, 1481 (2), 1482, 1483? (5), 1485 (2), and 1486. In this last year the presses at Oxford and St. Alban's simultaneously ceased, and Westminster and London were alone left at work in England. From 1517 to 1519 seven books appeared at Oxford, but not till 1585 did the permanent establishment of a press at Oxford take place, since which time book production has never ceased. It is almost a curiosity of the press that as many as 28 *false* imprints or records of imaginary Oxford books, between 1459 and 1584, have found their way into bibliographies.

2. THE EDITIO PRINCEPS OF ST. BARNABAS, 1642.

It was reserved for the late Rev. J. H. Backhouse to discover, in 1882, that to Oxford belongs the honour of printing the Epistle of St. Barnabas in Greek for the first time. It was known that Archbishop Ussher had contemplated, and even printed, an edition in 1642-43, but it was believed to have practically disappeared in the

great fire at Oxford in October, 1644. Mr. Backhouse, having eyes, noticed that in all the printed Bodleian catalogues of 1674, 1738 and 1843, an edition of 1643 was entered, a fact which others seem to have assumed to be due to confusion with the 1644 edition of Ignatius and Polycarp (not Barnabas). The curiosity partly consists in the *reason* for the preservation of this one copy, which is fragmentary but fully sufficient to establish the edition. This reason Mr. Backhouse does not mention, probably from want of acquaintance with the technicalities of printing. It is this:—The Bodleian fragment of 1642 is the latter part of an edition of Ignatius, Polycarp and Barnabas, dated 1643, not 1644. Sheet E of this edition, belonging to the *Polycarpiana Epistolarum Ignatianarum Sylloge*, was in this copy (the only one which has survived) wrongly printed, the printer having *turned round* and inverted (instead of simply inverting) this particular sheet when one side had been printed and before the other side was done. The result was, of course, a general “pie,” as far as the sequence of pages was concerned; the scape-grace copy was condemned after the sheets had been put together as far as Sig. K K 4 (p. 270), it was thrown aside and escaped the fire! The waste sheets were thus transformed into a precious relic. In 1883 the Clarendon Press issued an exact reprint of the Barnabas fragment with a dissertation on the history of the edition by Mr. Backhouse.

During the Civil War, Oxford was at certain periods the source from which most of the Royalist literature was issued, both pamphlets and broadsides: the manuscript of one of the latter is still in existence, signed by the King and ordered to be printed: but *πολλὰ μετὰ τὸ πέλει κτλ.*, the King had to flee from Oxford before the printing could be done!

3. OXFORD ALMANACS.

The several series of Almanacs are not only curious but valuable: two of them may be here mentioned. (a) One Isaac Abendana, a converted Jew, who seems to have gained a precarious means of subsistence by the liberality of patrons, persuaded Bishop Fell to allow him to issue “The Oxford Almanack” combined with a “Jewish Kalendar,” the two appearing on opposite pages, with a long “explanation of the Jewish Kalendar,” and some local information about coaches, carriers and the like. This was issued yearly from 1692 to 1699. (b) But the most important set is that of sheet almanacks, first issued in 1674, and continued without a break from 1676 to the present day. Each consists of an engraving in the upper

part, and below a table of days and events especially connected with Oxford, but also of general utility. At first the engravings were allegorical—usually in a markedly Italian style, one being actually an adaptation of a Hampton Court Cartoon by Raphael, but from 1723 on (except in 1754 and 1755) they have been views of Oxford buildings, and of very great interest as representing accurately and on a large scale many buildings which have long passed away. Michael Burghers, David Loggan, George Vertue and J. M. W. Turner, are among the artists who contributed to the series. For many years the demand was so great that two copper plates were separately engraved from the same design, while for at least the first hundred years copies were printed on silk, possibly to avoid the tax on printed sheets, but more probably to form a curious and tasteful Christmas gift for Oxford men to carry into the country to their friends. So high ran political feeling in the University in the eighteenth century, that certain of the allegorical engravings (in 1711, 1712 and 1755) which appear to a modern eye innocent and moral pictures of a mild type, were attacked in satirical pamphlets as subtly enshrining dangerous reflections on the Ministry and the Sovereign.

The operations of the University Press, which from 1585 till the Restoration were conducted at the printers' private establishments, were at the latter date transferred to the Old House of Congregation in St. Mary's Church, and in 1669 to the new Sheldonian Theatre ("e Theatro Sheldoniano"). There, for most of the year, the floor of the theatre was occupied by the printers, who, when the Act drew on, hustled the presses into the basement and their paper into the space between the roof and ceiling, and suspended all work. In 1713 a special "Clarendon Building" (which still bears the name) was ready for use, and the only subsequent move was in 1830 to the present extensive premises of the Clarendon Press.

4. URANIUS, 1856.

Even a German Professor cannot escape being imposed upon. In 1856 appeared "*Uranii Alexandrini de Regibus Aegyptiorum libri tres. Operis ex codice palimpsesto edendi specimina proposuit Gulielmus Dindorfius. Oxonii: e typographeo Academico, M.D.CCC.LVI.*", in octavo, x + 14 pp. The facts were that Constantine Simonides, the well-known forger of manuscripts, had produced an old palimpsest MS. of a treatise on the Kings of Egypt by a writer whose name only had hitherto been recorded. Dindorf saw it at Leipzig, whence in 1855 it was sent to Berlin to be inspected by the members of the Academy. It deceived all who saw it except Humboldt, and the

King of Prussia agreed to give £700 for the 71 leaves. Dindorf persuaded the Clarendon Press, on the faith of his own reputation as a critical scholar, to print and publish a specimen of an edition of the new work which had so wonderfully verified the latest conjectures of German scholars on the early history of Egypt. Copies were issued to each of the Delegates of the press, and three or four were sold when the news came that the whole was a forgery. Not only was the Greek decidedly canine (*κατ' ἐμὴν ἰδέαν* represented "according to my opinion"), but on close inspection it was discovered that the older uncial writing, the Uranius, was written over and on the top of the later "twelfth century" treatises! The specimen is, as may be imagined, rare; and the trick is perhaps the only one which has taken in the University Press during all its long career of three centuries. Considering Professor Dindorf's reputation at the time, and the opinion expressed by him and the Berlin *literati* who had actually seen the codex, probably no Press in Europe would have refused to take the honour of first producing such a monument of antiquity.

5. STATISTICS OF THE OXFORD PRESS.

Everyone who has a literary hobby, or even literary taste at all, is concerned to know how far the national libraries are able to spread their nets, especially with respect to local and out-of-the-way books. Probably all who read these lines know the satisfaction felt when it is certain that such and such a book is safe in the British Museum; and the converse despair when no copy is within reach, or—perhaps worst of all—only in private hands, and liable to sink entirely beneath the surface for many years. The Museum has recently published a list of its English books printed before 1640, and from that and my own collections I have compiled a comparative table of the total number of Oxford books printed to 1640, compared with the number of them now to be found in the Museum and in the Bodleian. It should be remembered that the latter has had the advantage not only of catching books as they rose, so to speak, but also of 150 years of vigorous life before the British Museum was opened. The results may be tabulated as follows:—

OXFORD BOOKS "1468"—1640.

In British Museum and Bodleian . . .	370
In British Museum only . . .	70
In Bodleian only . . .	220
Not in either Library . . .	140
Total . . .	800

It would seem therefore, that the Museum possesses about 55 per cent. of the whole literature, and even the Bodleian only 73 per cent. Both libraries clearly have some work yet to do.

The following fairly close estimate may also be of general interest, as perhaps no similar statistics have yet been printed for any considerable press, and these are printed for the first time :—

OXFORD PRESS, "1648"—1885.

15th Century	15	{ 1751—1760	250
1517—19	7	{ 1761—1770	200
1585—1600	125	{ 1771—1780	225
{ 1601—1620	256	{ 1781—1790	200
{ 1621—1640	395	{ 1791—1800	225
{ 1641—1650	520		
		Total about	1100
Total about	1170		
<hr/>			
{ 1651—1660	330	{ 1801—1810	350
{ 1661—1670	330	{ 1811—1820	430
{ 1671—1680	340	{ 1821—1830	560
{ 1681—1690	280	{ 1831—1840	840
{ 1691—1700	240	{ 1841—1850	1020
Total about	1520	Total about	3200
<hr/>			
{ 1701—1710	260	{ 1851—1860	1180
{ 1711—1720	230	{ 1861—1870	1370
{ 1721—1730	180	{ 1871—1880	1600
{ 1731—1740	140	{ 1881—1885	850
{ 1741—1750	190		
Total about	1000	Total about	5000

Grand Total about 13,000.

The foregoing notes touch very lightly on a subject which is about to receive much closer attention. It will be a great favour if any reader of *The Library* would contribute notes on points of Oxford bibliography, such as those which Mr. Edward Peacock has recently sent to *Notes and Queries* about Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*. In return I will gladly answer any queries on the subject, so far as my other duties will allow. May I hope that other local presses will have some attention paid to them in these pages?

FALCONER MADAN.

A Lawyer's Library.

A library of general literature, not purchased by the yard, but gradually and sympathetically gathered by the owner, gives tolerably full and faithful testimony to his character; for a man is known by the company he keeps; but a solicitor's library is as taciturn as its owner. At one stroke, therefore, a great part of the interest aroused by a private view of a man's library is shorn away. But there is much left.

Amongst the foundations of a real-property lawyer's learning lies Coke upon Littleton, a mighty folio. Our edition is the 13th, of 1788. The first was issued in 1628. This is one of the books much talked about, but little read, and by not a few lawyers never seen. A great book, nevertheless, in every sense of the word. It fills one with respectful awe, to see the ancient text of Littleton, treated almost as deferentially, and quite as exhaustively and voluminously, as the text of the Four Gospels is treated by profoundest commentators.

Coke was an old man when he finished his *Institutes*, and tenderly bequeathed his *magnum opus* to the young enthusiasts who, he doubted not, would follow him. *Hæc ego*, he says in his title page, *grandævus posui tibi, candide lector.*

The secularist and agnostic age upon which we have fallen, may look with silent reverence at the heading of Sir Edward Coke's *Proœmium*. It is dedicated thus:—

DEO
PATRIÆ
tibi

The "tibi" is meant for the *candidus lector*, addressed on the title page. We trust that individual will see and confess that there did once live a lawyer, for whom a cheap funeral could not be provided by leaving the bedroom window open at night, and deodorising the room from the smell of sulphur next morning. But the gracious impression thus produced may be, we admit, chastened upon perusal of a little marginal note, suggested by the "old Adam," resident in Coke, as perhaps in other lawyers. It occurs in his mention of the birth, parentage, arms, and worldly position of Littleton. "The dignity," he says "of this fair descended family, De Littleton, has grown up and spread itself abroad by matches made with many other ancient and honourable families, and many worthy and fruitful branches,

whose posterity flourish at this day, and quartereth many fair coats, and enjoyeth¹ fruitful and opulent inheritances thereby."

Coke shared in the overpowering loyalty of the English to their great queen Elizabeth. He was not deterred by the fact that his book was concerned with such prosaic topics as estates, fines, recoveries and ejectments, from waving his irrelevant flag, and cutting rhetorical capers in honour of the great Gloriana. He speaks of "many learned men of old time, all honoured and preferred by that thrice-noble and virtuous Queen Elizabeth of ever blessed memory. In her reign I learned many things which in these Institutes I have published; and of this queen I may say that, as the rose is the queen of flowers, and smelleth more sweetly when it is plucked from the branch, so I may say and justify, that she, by just dessert, was the queen of queens, and of kings also, for religion, piety, magnanimity and justice; who now, by remembrance thereof since Almighty God gathered her to himself, is of greater honour and renown than when she was living in this world. You cannot question what rose I mean; for, take the red or the white, she was not only by royal descent and inherent birthright, but by *rosial beauty* the heir to both." What do you think of that, "*candide lector*," for an outburst from the heart of an old and dusty lawyer? What a juicy old soul he must have been to have retained so much moisture after a protracted sojourn in deserts, infested by disseisins, contingent remainders, enfeoffments, executory devises, springing uses, and other demons walking through the dry places.

One may laugh at Coke's gallant and impassioned loyalty, but one cannot read without sincere respect the language of natural piety in which, all-unconscious of our nineteenth century terror of being thought righteous overmuch, he closes his *Proæmium* thus:—"Before I entered into any of these parts of our Institutes, I, acknowledging mine own weakness and want of judgment to undertake great works, directed my humble suit and prayer to the author of all goodness and wisdom"; and then he quotes a prayer out of "the Wisdom of Solomon."

We rise, with our *candidus lector*, into a balloon at the edge of the Sahara of real property law,—which Coke travels like a camel provided with an assortment of stomachs, and spongy feet suited to the journey,—and descend with him on the other side, at the "Epilogus," where we take leave of Coke. In this Epilogus he quotes the sentence "*Lex plus laudatur, quando ratione probatur*;"

¹ In Marg. "*The best kind of quartering of arms.*"

on hearing which sentiment, precisely half of all plaintiffs, and half of all defendants, will display noses "tip-tilted as the petal of a flower," and repeat with scornful inflections the word "quando."

His toil being completed he indulges in metaphor again. He "does not dare that all that is said herein is law," but "safely assumes that there is nothing herein, but may open some windows of the law to let in more light to the student, by diligent search to see the secrets of the law."

Loyalty and piety, we have seen, had a lodging in the breast of Coke, and that touch about "rosial beauty," leads one to conjecture that the "*grandævus*," had not forgotten his gallantry; but humour is conspicuously absent. We thought we had discovered it, in the following sentence, but the countenance of the venerable man remained grave under our scrutiny, and we found the humour was our own unwarranted interpretation. If the law is changed, he says the student must enquire the reason,—“Knowing for certaine that the law is unknown to him who knoweth not the reason thereof, and that the *knowne certaintie* of the law is the safety of all.” And he takes leave of the young devotee, who is presumed to have achieved with him the pilgrimage, through the flowerless land of real property law, in this fatherly way:—“And for a farewell to our jurisprudent, I wish unto him the *gladsome light* of jurisprudence, the loveliness of temperance, the stabilitie of fortitude, and the soliditie of justice.”

The author whom Coke, as commentator, embowers in the wealth of legal lore stored up in these Institutes, carries us back at a bound to very old times. His first edition appeared in 1481, only six or seven years after Caxton had furnished the wherewithal. He lies buried in a "fair marble tomb," at Worcester Cathedral, with the inscription, cut in his lifetime by his own direction, "*Fili Dei miserere mei.*"

Those were days when writers, even on so dreary a topic as criminal law, could find heart and leisure to devise artistic title-pages. We have before us a black-letter treatise of 1623, the title-page of which sets it forth as:—“DE PACE REGIS ET REGNI/ A treatise declaring which be/ the great & general offences of the/ realm * * which being reformed/ or duely checked/ *Florebit pax regis et regni.*” No doubt the author, Ferdinand Pytton, rubbed his hands over that well-balanced title-page.

But we must pass on from these old worthies to the more modern occupants of our shelves. Favourite law-books are like favourite toy dogs; they are crammed in each successive edition with fresh

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food of case-law, and get fatter and fatter. Observing how fat our *Addison on Contracts* has grown in his 8th edition, we took the trouble to compare his breadth of beam with the dimensions of his 5th edition, early manhood, so to speak. In those days he measured only $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the back. Now he has reached the portliness of $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Similarly Woodfall's *Landlord and Tenant*, and Dart's *Vendors and Purchasers*, have been laying on fat, at a quite surprising rate.

Do clients ever consider what toil their men of law have to undergo in keeping pace with the endless changes of the statute law, and vanishing of case law. No sooner do we settle down in some fold of law, and become accustomed to its nooks and corners, than the trumpet of the reformer sounds, and we have to "rise and twitch our mantle blue; Tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new." We are like cats; we hate moving into new houses; but we are not allowed to have any abiding city anywhere. New Bankruptcy Acts, Settled Land Acts, Conveyancing and Law of Property Acts, Judicature Acts, all call upon us to "forget the things that are behind," and march abreast of that tireless wandering Jew, the Law reformer. A good man in a prayer meeting, suffering his attachment to the words of scripture to overrun his desires, fervently prayed that we might be "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth:" Some of us lawyers feel as if that petition had been fulfilled in our case.

There are two classes of books that bulk largely in a lawyer's library. First and foremost come "Reports;" and secondly, "Precedents."

In roaming through a Surgical Museum, and looking (as long as one can, without a desire for brandy and water), at the horrid "Preparations," we are sometimes smitten with the painful thought,—How much agony is represented in those quiet glass jars! And so, as we contemplate the rows of peaceful law-calf, we cannot but extend a momentary tribute of sympathy to the plaintiffs and defendants, whose struggles, hopes, fears, doubts, hatreds, now rest quietly, as specimens in our jars of law. To a lawyer, the reports are really interesting reading. They are "truth embodied in a tale." They are working models; the principles, on which he daily advises and proceeds, shewn in action. He remembers his principles more easily as enshrined in the cases of *Brown v. Jones*, *Re Robinson*, and in the matter of *Thompson's Trusts*. May it be some comfort to distressed plaintiffs or defendants to reflect that to them may fall the honour of furnishing "leading cases!" Perish all paltry thoughts of costs, in

the presence of such a possibility ! Immortality ! Who was Twyne ? Who was Spencer ? Who was Shelley ?—We could repeat a long roll of the noble army of legal martyrs, most of whom would be absolutely wiped out of the memory of man, but for the fact that fortune, or misfortune, drove them into litigation, whereby, now and for evermore, they stand ennobled in Smith's or Tudor's *Leading Cases*. Oblivion, for them, is an obsolete terror, a forgotten danger. A worthy old countrywoman remembered with satisfaction that the doctor had said one of her grinders was the hardest tooth he had ever had to pull out, in the whole county ; and would she not have rejoiced at the pain that was the mother of immortality ? We commend the soothing thought to plaintiffs and defendants.

Books of Precedents must lie close to the lawyer's hand. Bythewood, Davidson and Prideaux, are our slaves of the lamp. A precedent or common form is an economy of thought ; but a form is a two-edged knife, apt to wound the unskilful handler. A form of conveyance, mortgage, or will, is only a perfectly safe implement in the hands of a man who, if time were given him, could construct it himself from first principles. The forms sold in the shops have often proved snares to those, who did not know that sixpennyworth of knowledge is a dangerous thing. The law, however, is very gentle with the laity who draw up documents, and does its best, at all times, to interpret and to enforce them, according to the maxim quoted with approval in Lilly's *Practical Conveyancer*, 1719 ;—“ *Benignæ sunt interpretationes chartarum propter simplicitatem laicorum, ut res magis valeat quam pereat.*” But the law is sometimes hard put to it. The laity may, however, take the comfort of a *tu quoque*, as they remember how the most eminent of conveyancing lawyers, Lord St. Leonards, left a will, drawn by himself, that could not be interpreted without a Chancery suit ; and he was not alone in this ignominy.

Omniscience is not an attribute of lawyers, but it is one they are bound to cultivate under penalty of *crassa negligentia*. Modern times have developed many new branches of law ; and no legal gentleman's library is complete without books on Public Health, Joint Stock Companies, Registration and Election, Mining Law, Railway, Gas and Water Consolidation, and other minor twigs of the painfully flourishing tree of jurisprudence. Add to these arid topics, the *ne plus ultra* of dreariness, Books of Practice, Rules of the Supreme Court, and cases therein ; and the general reader will not wonder when we assure him that, when lawyers get home, they are the most voracious of all novel-readers.

EDWARD BUTLER.

Lending Libraries and Board Schools.¹

AT the Manchester meeting of the Library Association in 1879 I read a paper entitled "The Public Free Library and the Board School," in which I endeavoured to show how the active interests of these two educational institutions might become identical, and that, by a combination of resources, much good might accrue to the people at large, and particularly to the younger members of our great communities. It is now my pleasing duty to report that I have been enabled in some degree to carry out the visionary project I then advocated, and I purpose in this paper to give a few details of the working of the scheme.

The practical proposal I made, in the paper to which I have referred, was "That in connexion with each district school there should be a small collection of books approved by both library and school authorities for the use of the children attending that school; and that those children should not be allowed to use the central or general library, except at the special request of parents or teachers. This arrangement might be supplemented or varied in order to suit the particular circumstances of each case."

Local circumstances rendered it for a time impossible to carry out the scheme in my own town, but, by dint of keeping it well to the front, I am happy to say that we have at length overcome all difficulties, and have now eleven of these branch libraries at work in the most populous parts of our town, where they are undoubtedly doing good service. Although these libraries are for the present small in themselves, and carry out but a part of our scheme, for we have not as yet been able to include the evening reading room as originally intended, it is satisfactory to know that we have made a beginning, and we hope shortly to witness a still further development.

Starting from the principle that free libraries and board schools were alike municipal institutions, that they were supported by the ratepayers, and were thus to a certain extent on the same footing, we felt that they might be used in the manner proposed without any infringement of the law or interference with the special objects for which they were severally established. Further, the school-master directly, and the public librarian indirectly, being engaged in educational work, it seemed natural to assume that the work of these two public officials might be rendered more useful by a direct combination in the endeavour to carry out a great public benefit.

¹ Read before the Library Association, Glasgow, Aug. 1880.

To effect this, it was suggested that the School Board, acting under the powers they possessed, should grant the use of some portion of the school buildings, together with the necessary furniture, and the attendance of responsible officers; while the Library Committee should supply to the schools a certain number of carefully selected books for the use of the pupils, and possibly even of those who had passed out of the schools but were still in the same neighbourhood. I may, however, say, in passing, that we have found difficulties in the way of carrying the latter idea into practical effect, and this portion of our plan is therefore deferred until we can introduce the evening reading room and branch library system into some of the board schools.

At the outset the co-operation of the teachers was sought, for without their goodwill there was little hope of success for our scheme, the practical carrying out of which was sure to entail additional labour upon them. In this we found no difficulty, in fact, as I shall show presently, the head teachers entered most heartily into the project.

The approval of the Free Library Committee having been obtained, it became necessary to consult the School Board; and, after some preliminary negotiations, a joint committee was appointed, and it was agreed to give the project a trial. The following provisional recommendations were ultimately adopted.

BOARD SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

The Free Library Committee make the following recommendations to the School Board.

1. That each of the Fourteen Board Schools (girls' and boys') in the town are supplied with small lending libraries.
 2. That each library consist of one hundred carefully-selected books from the present stock of the library, to be supplemented from time to time as circumstances permit.
 3. That each library or set of books remain in circulation, by way of experiment, for a period of not longer than six months.
 4. That all books be returned to the Free Public Library at the half-yearly closing, irrespective of the time during which they may have been in circulation.
 5. The Public Library Committee suggest that a committee of the School Board shall undertake the selection of the books for the respective schools.
 6. That the School Board are responsible for the safety, distribution and return of all books lent for use in these schools, under the existing rules and regulations.
 7. That lists of books lent to the several schools be placed in the school rooms, where they may easily be seen and referred to by the scholars.
 8. That if any books, not on the list, be applied for, the scholars should be referred to the public library, where they may be obtained in the usual manner.
- 8

9. That, as far as possible, it be arranged for each set of books to go the round of the schools in rotation. Books worn out or otherwise unfit for circulation, to be replaced by new copies or other works as may be deemed most desirable.

Subsequently, a code of rules, embodying the main points laid down in the Library Committee's recommendations, was prepared and discussed by both committees, the School Board taking their head teachers into consultation as to the details of the scheme.

We determined to start with eleven schools—five boys' and six girls'—these schools being fairly scattered over the entire district covered by the operations of our library. The selection of the books was regulated by the age, sex, and standard of the children frequenting the various schools, and the lists, when approved by the Library Committee, were sent on to the School Board for their consideration.

The results of our scheme have thus far been entirely satisfactory. In proof of this I give the following extracts from the reports of some of the head teachers as sent to the School Board.

The head teacher of one of the largest schools in the district writes:—

"The books recently supplied are greatly appreciated by the boys. In order to obtain their opinion, I got each of the seniors to write me a letter upon the subject as a home-lesson, and without exception the expression was in favour of the suitableness of the books. I was also pleased to find that the parents are in many cases greatly interested in the library and sometimes read the books which are taken home by the boys."¹

This teacher makes a strong appeal for more books, as at present he has only sufficient to supply standards V, VI and VII.

Another head teacher of a girls' school says that the books are "attractive and entertaining," and that "as far as practicable, the children are allowed to choose their own books," but adds that "the distribution has been limited to the four upper standards, the number not being sufficient for the whole school."

From another boys' school it is reported:

"That teachers, scholars and parents, all appear to appreciate the new books very much. There is a decided preference for those from the free library, which keeps them always in demand."

In this, as in several other schools, the teachers had previously been accustomed to supply their scholars occasionally with books, but it is found that these books remain idle on the shelves now that more attractive books are supplied from the free library. This

¹ As an appendix to his paper, Mr. Wright read a number of most interesting letters that had been received from pupils expressing the gratification they derived from the new libraries.—Ed.

teacher also appends some letters written by the boys of the first class, and these letters, he says, are written without suggestion or prompting.

Now comes an independent opinion from the mistress of a girls' school. She says:

"As the books are nearly all story books, they can be of little value from an educational point of view, however pleasing they may be to the girls. Works of general information, the elements of science, Voyages (to extend their geographical knowledge, &c.) would to my mind be better for the girls, and more like a school library. *The Eminent Women Series, Story of English Literature, Connexion of Physical Sciences, Fairyland of Science, Health Lectures*, or even the *Girl's Own Paper*, would be works I should place in the library, were I able to do so at present."

These hints are valuable, and will no doubt be acted upon in due course.

Some of the opinions expressed raise the question whether we should cater for the very youngest children by supplying such elementary story books, as would be within their comprehension. Lastly, I refer with pleasure to the remarks of the head-teacher of a school which ranks amongst the best under the control of the Board. He says that the books have given great satisfaction to the boys, and, complaining of insufficient supply, suggests that he should be supplied with some illustrated copies of Shakespeare—single plays, such as are published by Cassell.

Now let me add a few comments as to the chief advantages of this system of small branch (school) libraries.

1. The books are distributed throughout the entire district in a much more effective manner than would be possible were they simply drawn from the central library, and this, in a town where there are no branches, is in itself a boon, as it saves the youthful borrowers long walks from the outlying districts for the purpose of obtaining their books.¹

2. The head teachers can, and do, exercise a direct supervision over the class of reading indulged in by their pupils. It is not desired to place any undue restriction upon the general circulation of books and I am of opinion that the children should be allowed some choice in the matter; but we all know that youthful bor-

¹ It is a moot point whether the scheme shall be extended to voluntary and denominational schools; the chief difficulty being as to the extent of the responsibility of the managers of those schools. The Library Committee have been informed that applications will be made, and when they come they are prepared to consider each application on its own merits, and to grant the books if they are satisfied on certain points.

rowers are accustomed to select books according to the attractiveness of their titles; and experience has shown that most unsuitable books are taken out by children of tender age. Moreover, it stands to reason that the teachers, who are brought into daily contact with the boys and girls of the schools, and know something of their individual temperaments, can have much more influence upon them than can the librarian or library assistant, whose opportunities for guiding selection in a busy library are necessarily limited.

3. The books selected are often such as can be and are read by other members of the family, and thus the parents benefit as well as the children, and people are led to read who do not care to take the trouble to go to the central library.

4. The system of school libraries spreads the work of the free library over a larger area and removes some of the pressure from the central library; which is in itself an advantage, when, as in some cases the library staff is small and the demand for books chiefly concentrated into the last two or three hours of the day.

5. These libraries being in operation, and the principle of the joint action of the School Board and the Library Committee having been established, it will not be difficult to carry out further developments of the project as originally laid down.

At present our income, derived exclusively from the library rate, is not sufficient to enable us to establish branches, with reading rooms, as in some wealthier towns; but we believe that with the help of the board schools we shall be able to do so at a comparatively small cost.

I suppose it is too much to expect that the library rate will ever be supplemented by State aid, as in the case of the board schools, nor do I know that it would be desirable; but it may be possible after a time for the School Board to devote some of its funds to the provision of books for these branch libraries, as what we chiefly aim at is the education of the young, and an education that will continue after school-days are over, and when the real battle of life has commenced.

Other developments may follow, but I think enough has been said upon what some may consider an unimportant matter; and I need only add that I shall be glad to receive hints and suggestions on any of the points raised.

W. H. K. WRIGHT.

Settings.

Long ago we urged that publishers could, at a nominal cost, do more for good cataloguing than all the members of the Library Association put together—if they would print and issue with every book full title slips in catalogue form. But it has been reserved for Mr. P. Edward Dove, of the Selden Society, to show them how to do it. With the last two volumes issued by that Society,—*Select Pleas of the Crown, Vol. I*, and *Select Pleas in Manorial and other Seigniorial Courts, Vol. I*, he has issued, for each, six catalogue slips (printed on one sheet), giving the title and other particulars in full. Three of the slips have a heading: 1, Title; 2, Editor's name; 3, Name of Society, but enough space is left for another heading, in case these are found unsuitable; and the other three are left for such other headings or cross-references as individual circumstances may suggest.

Every librarian and collector owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Dove for this experiment, and we trust his example may induce the publishers to adopt the practice. Even if the trifling cost were a consideration, that would be more than met by a nominal charge, which every library would gladly pay.

We have been taken to task for ignoring the library infection scare. Surely, it is obvious that the silly people who raised it were acting very much on the principle that "any stick will do to beat a dog with." They hate the free library and all its works, and anything is good enough for a cry against it. If we were to answer them seriously, we would remind *thinking* people that the Free Library and its books are the last sources from which infection is to be feared. Infectious diseases must be reported, and one of the first things an intelligent medical man would do, would be to order the disinfection and return of any library books found in the house, and at the same time to notify the library authorities—and all danger is forthwith at an end. In what other public place can such safeguards be possible? Who is to prevent careless wretches, freighted with infection, from entering the theatre, the church, the railway-carriage and omnibus—to say nothing of the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the sweater's den brings havoc and death equally to the lord and the pauper? But, seriously, we feel that to notice such puerilities is to answer a fool according to his folly.

The Catalogue of a Boston Library contains this entry—"God; see Fiske, J."

Mr. Mathews, of Bristol, is to be congratulated on his most interesting discovery of the early registers of the Bristol Library Society.

These registers help to correct some trifling errors in the biographies of Southey; but their chief interest lies in the light they throw upon the literary partnership that existed between Southey and Coleridge. In conjunction they delivered a course of historical lectures in Bristol, and for many months seem to have read the same books together.

In twenty-four months Southey took from the library thirty-seven different works, "chiefly quartos"—and nearly all decidedly "heavy."

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

The Library Association at the Guildhall.

THE last monthly meeting of the Association was a specially interesting one. By the kind invitation of the Chairman (Mr. Edgar F. Jenkins) and Committee of the Corporation Library, the meeting was held in the Guildhall, on the evening of Wednesday, April 10th.

Mr. Edgar F. Jenkins, who presided, expressed his regret that the President (the Worshipful Chancellor Christie) had been suddenly called out of town in consequence of the dangerous illness of a near relative. He was extremely sorry that so few of the Library Committee of the Corporation were there, but that was entirely owing to the bad weather. On behalf of that committee, and through them on behalf of the Corporation of London, he begged sincerely to welcome the members of the Association within those ancient buildings. The subject for which they were met would no doubt be of great interest. The welcome which was extended to the members of the Association was one of common brotherhood, because he was sure that the members were in sympathy with the Library Committee, for they were anxious to promote everything which was for the moral and intellectual welfare of the inhabitants of London at large. It was not the first time that they had selected the Guildhall as their meeting place, and he hoped it would not be the last. He thought it right, on behalf of the Corporation, to make one or two remarks with reference to what the Corporation had done in bringing about what he might term the education of the people. The Corporation had been much abused of late for having spent its money on itself, but those who were aware of the facts knew that it had ever been ready and in the fore-front of those who were willing to promote education among the people generally. Witness the City of London School, which was an institution which had held a high place for many years among the educational establishments of the country. Witness also the Freeman Orphan School, and what the Corporation had done for technical education. It had spent large sums in furtherance of this important matter, not only in London, but throughout the country. They did not stop there. They thought, in order to enlighten the people, it would be well to open a school of music. A school had been opened which had cost the Corporation an enormous sum of money, and that school had grown from a few hundreds to many thousands of students. But music was not sufficient to educate the masses, and they therefore thought it proper that there should be a free and open library. The open free library of the Corporation of London was a very ancient institution indeed. Since the new library had been open they had been enabled to enlarge their scope and add a vast number of volumes, and he was happy to say that not only the citizens of London, or even those who resided within the four corners of our Island, but those who came from every foreign clime had been readers within their walls. They had heard a great deal recently about the Free Library movement, but he believed he was right in saying that the Corporation had been the pioneer in this matter, and their library had been free for over 200 years. For these reasons he thought the Corporation deserved well of the people.

Mr. Charles Welch, the Corporation librarian, then read a paper on "The Guildhall Library and its work." He said that the first mention of the public city library was in the records of the Corporation dated September 27, 1425, the founders being the famous Richard Whittington and William Bury. This library existed for a century and a quarter, but had totally disappeared. According to Stow, in the reign of Edward VI., the Protector, Somerset took away the books with a promise to restore them shortly, but they were never returned. This act of selfish rapacity probably happened in 1559. Not a volume or even a catalogue is known to be preserved, but there is still room for hope

that something may be discovered in the MS. stores of some other library. From 1550 to 1824 no steps were taken to re-establish the library; but, in the latter year, at the instance of Mr. R. Lambert Jones, the Court of Common Council unanimously referred it to a Special Committee to consider as to providing a library, and the rooms of the Irish Society were adapted with that object, £500 was voted for the outfit, and £200 annually for the maintenance. In 1828 the library was opened, with Mr. W. Herbert as librarian. In 1829 there were 2,800 volumes, 2,000 prints, and 100 drawings. By 1840 the library had reached nearly 10,000 volumes, and extensive additions had been made to the library buildings. In December, 1840, it was opened in the evening from six to nine o'clock, but this experiment did not prove successful, and was discontinued in the following year. A foundation for a civic museum had been laid in 1828, and in 1850 it was fully established. In 1831 a committee was appointed by the Corporation to consider whether there were any premises attached to the Guildhall which could be converted into a library worthy of the Corporation. It was not until 1869 that the matter was decided, and the present buildings were opened in 1872, though they were not open to the public until 1873. Sixteen years had elapsed since the opening of the present free library. The accommodation for books was exhausted, the reading room was inconveniently over-crowded, and even the library itself was often too full. The total number of visitors last year was 396,720, of whom 150,000 were readers in the library. The books had recently been counted, and it had been found that there were 40,000 works in 56,737 volumes. As regarded the character of the books read, it was gratifying to find that fiction was read only to the extent of 15·76 per cent., and that was of the best fiction.

The Rev. A. Löwy, referring to the preparation of the catalogue of Hebraic and Judaic works in the library, said he had been anxious to add an encyclopædic index, in order that readers unacquainted with the Hebrew language might be able to discover the historical, biographical, and other treasures contained in Hebrew works. He had found the subject to be beset with considerable difficulties, and he was under great obligations to Mr. Welch, whose systematizing genius had removed many obstacles that stood in the way of an index-writer. Mr. Löwy then gave an account of a literary curiosity in the Guildhall Library, viz., *A'leh Terupha*, or "A leaf for the cure" (of a malady). The book was an essay in Hebrew on "Preservatives against Small-pox," written in the year 1785. The writer suggested inoculation as a preventative. Mr. Löwy reported a remarkable discovery he had made in the Municipal Library at Rouen in 1867, viz., a Hebrew-Arabic Dictionary, by Ibn-Janach. Till then, he added, only a defective manuscript was known to exist in the Bodleian Library. The manuscript discovered by Mr. Löwy was subsequently lent by the French Minister of Education to Dr. Neubauer, who published the whole work, a copy of which had been presented to the Guildhall Library.

On the motion of Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Bullen, very hearty votes of thanks were awarded to Mr. Welch and the Rev. Mr. Löwy, and these gentlemen briefly replied.

During the evening the guests had an opportunity of examining some of the treasures preserved in the Guildhall Library. We select the following for special mention:—

A collection of original records of the wards and parishes of the City of London, including

- The Court Book for the Liberty of St. Martin's le Grand, 1615-1814,
 - The Wardmote Book of the Ward of Vintry, 1687-1774,
 - The Vestry Book of St. Mary Colechurch, 1612-1700,
 - The Account Book of St. Mildred Poultry, 1711-1777, and the Smithfield Court Book, containing the proceedings in the Court of Piepowder, 1790-1854.
- Amongst the other MSS. were
- Charters of the City of London,
 - Honorary Freedoms of the City of London,
 - The autographs and armorial bearings of the Lord Mayors of London, 1660-1888,
 - The *Chronica Francia*, 1st Henry IV (1399),
 - The *Liber Fleetwood*, 1576,
 - The Bible written in Dutch, 1360.

The printed books included a collection of pageants and Royal progresses, and other rarities, among which we specially noted:—

The copie of a letter sent into Scotlande, of the ariuell and landyng and most noble marryage of the most illustre Prynce, Philippe, Prynce of Spaine...London, 1555;

The passage of our most dread soueraigne lady Quene Elyzabeth through the citie of London...London, 1558; and

Descensus Astræ: the device of a pageant borne before M. William Web, Lord Maior...1591...Done by G. Peele...London, 1591.

A collection of Histories of the Livery Companies of the City of London.

Thomson's Chronicles of London Bridge, illustrated and enlarged by H. A. Rogers and Edmund H. Greenhill.

Der Bybel. First Dutch version. Delft, 1477.

The Golden Legend. Printed by Wynkyn de Worde, Westminster, 1512.

Lyson's History of London and its environs, illustrated with 2100 extra drawings, etc.

Ceremonial of the Coronation of George IV.

Hammond's Leah and Rachel: or, the two fruitfull sisters of Virginia and Maryland...London, 1656.

On one of the tables were displayed a number of portable electric lights, specially devised for use in libraries. From an accumulator small enough to be carried in the breast pocket, a flash light (lasting 4 hours) equal to four sperm candles, was supplied. Before the proceedings terminated, on the motion of Mr. E. C. Thomas, seconded by Mr. H. R. Tedder, the following resolution was carried by acclamation:

"That the hearty thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee of the Corporation of the City of London for their hospitality in having permitted the April meeting of this Association to be held at the Guildhall Library, and for having thrown open the Library, the Museum, and the Art Gallery on the occasion.

"That this meeting desires to express its grateful appreciation of the genial and courteous manner in which Mr. Edgar F. Jenkins, the Chairman of the Guildhall Library Committee, has presided; and thanks him for having so readily assented to take the chair, and for the interest he has shown in the welfare of the Association."

After partaking of refreshments, the members and guests visited the Museum and Art Gallery, and not till 10.30 was this very pleasant meeting brought to a close.

The Public Libraries Acts at Croydon.

The disputes which have lately arisen in connection with the proposed adoption of the Public Libraries' Acts at Croydon, have at length been settled in a very satisfactory manner. The points involved in the dispute and the decision which has been given upon them are of the greatest importance to all who are in any way interested in the promotion of Public Free Libraries, and a brief account of what has taken place will doubtless be useful to many readers of *The Library*.

In October, 1888, a requisition was made to the Mayor of Croydon by ten ratepayers, pursuant to "The Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1866," calling upon him to ascertain the opinion of the ratepayers as to the adoption of the Acts. The Mayor issued voting papers to the occupiers of premises in the borough, and the result was that 6,482 voted for the adoption of the Acts, and 4,736 against it, leaving a majority of 1,746 for it, and upon that the Corporation acted.

The opponents of the scheme contended that this poll was illegal, alleging that the voting papers had been delivered to persons who had no right to vote, viz., occupiers who pay no rates, or whose rates were included in the rent, the landlords paying the rates, and of course, charging higher rent in consequence.

On the 8th of April the case was heard in the Lord Chancellor's Court, Chancery Division, before Mr. Justice Stirling. On the 16th April, Mr. Justice Stirling gave his decision. The action, in the name of the Attorney-General, was to restrain the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses from acting upon the poll, and Mr. Justice Stirling, very properly, refused the application. He held that the Legislature intended that the occupiers should have the right of voting upon the question of adopting the Act—that these occupiers were inhabitants of the borough, and really paid their rates with their rent—and that the Mayor acted rightly in issuing voting papers to them. In fact, the opinion of the rate-payers was properly expressed, and the poll was quite legal and valid.

We understand that steps will be immediately taken for the procuring of a site, and all other necessary arrangements will be made for the establishment of the Public Library. We very heartily wish it every success.

Public Libraries Acts Amendment Bill, 1889.

The object of this Bill, which passed the second reading in the House of Commons on the 26th March, and through Committee on the 11th April, is to empower local rating authorities to collect the library rate with and as *part* of the poor rate, and not as a separate rate as at present. This will save to libraries the cost of collecting the rate, and will be a great gain to those libraries which have so much trouble in keeping within their incomes. The Bill was originally introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Monkswell for the Chelsea Public Libraries Commissioners, but as it did not conform to the rules of the Upper House, it was withdrawn and, after being re-drafted (we believe under the sanction of the Local Government Board), it was brought into the House of Commons by Mr. H. Gardner and three other members. Some useful but inconsequential amendments were moved in committee, but we hope its further progress will not be impeded and that it may soon become law, at any rate until the Government finds time to introduce a Bill to consolidate the Public Libraries Acts.

Obituary.

Mr. Frederick Hawley, librarian of the Shakespeare Memorial Library at Stratford-on-Avon, died on March 13th, aged about 63. He was appointed to the post three or four years ago, and devoted himself with great zeal and industry to his duties. Only a few weeks since he completed a manuscript catalogue of all the known editions of Shakespeare. His courtesy will be well remembered by the members of the Library Association who visited Stratford in 1887. He was a native of Portsmouth, the son of Captain Hawley, and was trained for the law, but adopted the stage as his profession, and, after being for five years at Sadler's Wells, was for many years with the late Mr. Charles Calvert and Mr. John Knowles at Manchester. He was an admirable actor and won much regard at Manchester. His stage name was "Frederick Haywell."

Library Notes and News.

ABERDEEN.—At a meeting of the Free Library Committee, February 14, the Union-terrace site for the new library buildings was adopted. The cost is estimated at £8,600. Mr. Francis Logie Pirie offered a donation of £500, and the Lord Provost £250, on condition that the £5,000 required should be raised by public subscription. The Town Council have resolved to contribute £1,000 from the "Common Good" fund.

BELFAST FREE LIBRARY.—A view of the exterior of this fine building is given in the *Pictorial World*, February 14.

BELFAST.—The hundredth annual meeting of the Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge was held on February 21. The Society was reported to be in a prosperous condition, and Dr. Browne remarked that "the library stood high as one of reference, and he did not think the fear once expressed would be realised—namely, that the new Free Library would interfere with that Institution. On the contrary, he believed the class of people who availed themselves of that library would still continue to do so, and that the existence of the Free Library would induce a large number of people to come there and consult their books." Dr. Browne's belief is justified by the actual experience of similar institutions.

BOLTON.—Mr. J. P. Thomasson, an ex-M.P. for the borough, has presented, and the Corporation of Bolton have accepted, the Mere Hall Estate for the purposes of recreation grounds and a Free Library and Museum.

BRADFORD: SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.—At a recent meeting a paper was read by Mr. Butler Wood, librarian of the Bradford Free Library, on "Bookhunting." The lecturer exhibited many choice and rare works lent for the purpose of illustrating the lecture.

CANTERBURY.—Dr. Beane, of Melbourne (a native of Canterbury), has intimated to the Mayor his desire to found a Free Library and Working Man's Institute here, and a committee has been formed for the purpose of carrying the proposal into effect.

DARLSTON.—The Chairman of the Local Board (Mr. James Slater) has undertaken to provide at his own cost for the Library and the News Room such furniture as is needed, to supply daily newspapers, and also periodical literature; and he has signified his willingness to continue the provision as long as a sustained effort is made to wipe off the debt within a reasonable time.

EALING.—The Free Library, it seems, has become exceedingly popular, and the librarians are over-worked. At a recent meeting of the committee a member said that "the library seemed to him to have become quite a fashionable lounge on a fine afternoon, which the wealthier classes frequented to an alarming degree. He proposed that a voluntary rate, additional to the penny rate, should be collected, or a small subscription charged to the "well-to-do" borrowers."

EDINBURGH.—The reference department of the Public Library now contains 12,889, and the lending department 23,005 volumes. The total outlay in connection with the library buildings will fall short of Mr. Carnegie's gift of £50,000 by about £1,800. Amongst the donations received in March was one from Mr. D. Sime, assistant in the public library, of 151 volumes of minor Scottish poetry. It is probable that the library will be opened at the end of this year.

ELGIN.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered £500 to Elgin, on condition that the Acts are adopted by the town. Unfortunately the offer did not arrive until the rate-payers had, by a narrow majority, rejected the Acts; but it is probable that the matter will be taken up again.

LIMERICK.—The Free Libraries' Acts were unanimously adopted for this city, at a public meeting of ratepayers, on 8th March. The successful issue of the agitation is mainly due to the zeal and energy of the mayor, and of that tried friend of libraries, Mr. Lane-Joynt.

LONDON: BATTERSEA.—The Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums have applied to the Metropolitan Board of Works for a loan of £11,000 to enable them to build and furnish two libraries and to purchase books for them to the extent of £2,000—the sum of £2,650 to be repaid in ten years and £8,350 in thirty years.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—The Lord Mayor presided at the thirteenth annual meeting of the Free Library on April 1st. He said that, in spite of the adverse opinion originally expressed as to the Free Library, the end had justified the means. They began with 500 books, and they now had about 39,000, and he did not hesitate to say that they had built up round them one of the most useful institutions in the metropolis. There ought to be many more libraries in the metropolis than there were, for if they were to maintain their position in the world commercially or intellectually they must take care not to be behind Continental nations in providing such facilities as were needed for the cultivation of the people. The committee reported that, with a view to assist the unemployed who might be seeking situations, the advertisement sheets of the daily papers were posted outside the library every morning at seven o'clock.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—Mr. William Minet, of the Temple, has given to the Camberwell Vestry a building at the corner of Burton and Knatchbull Roads, to be used as a Free Library.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—The Free Library Commissioners for this parish announce in their annual report that they have accepted the generous offer of the Skinners' Company, who agreed to let on lease for 80 years a central plot of about 3,000 square feet for a new Free Library at a nominal rent of 40s. a year.

LONDON: MARYLEBONE.—A conference was held on April 2nd at 18, Baker-street, London, on the subject of the Free Library Movement in Marylebone. Alderman Frank Debenham gave a history of the movement from its commencement, and spoke of the great value a Free Library would be to all classes. The following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting, after hearing of the success attending the voluntary Free Library scheme in Paddington, cannot but think that a similar effort would be equally successful in Marylebone."

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—A portrait of Mr. Frank Moss, the founder and hon. secretary of the Paddington (Voluntary) Free Library, is being painted by Miss Edney for presentation to that library by subscribers. Lord Coleridge and Mr. F. D. Mocatta have issued an appeal for increased funds for the library. During the first eight months of its existence about 40,000 visits were made to the Library.

LONDON: ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.—The Public Library Commissioners having applied for authority to borrow £20,000 for the purposes of the Free Libraries Acts in the parish, a Local Government Office inspector held an inquiry on April 4th. There was no opposition.

LOUGHTON (ESSEX).—The Fourth Annual Report shows that this small village library continues to make steady progress. With only some 1,200 volumes, the turnover for 1888 was close on 4,000. The receipts

from all sources amounted to £39 8s., of which £20 was due to members' subscriptions.

MIDDLETON: LANCASHIRE.—On March 9th the Free Library at Middleton, erected, by subscription, in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, was opened by Professor W. Boyd Dawkins. The architect is Mr. Lawrence Booth of Manchester, and the style of the building is described as "old-fashioned 16th Century."

MIDDLEWICH: CHESHIRE.—The Public Libraries' Acts were adopted unanimously at a public meeting held on Feb. 7th. Suitable buildings have been given by Canon Hayhurst and Colonel Hayhurst; and Mr. Brunner, M.P., has started a subscription list with £100.

NELSON: LANCASHIRE.—A resolution in favour of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts was passed at a public meeting on March 12, but a poll was demanded.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The Public Library has, by a bequest of the late Mr. H. P. A. B. Riddell, C.S.I., been enriched to the extent of nearly 1,000 volumes of books, including many rare works on the history, antiquities and affairs of India. This is the first bequest received at Newcastle. Many other libraries are still waiting for their first. Councillor Walter Scott, publisher, has intimated to the Council his intention to present to the Public Library one copy of each of his publications which are at present in print, and also one copy of each book he may hereafter publish. The first consignment was estimated to be about 350 volumes.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—In connection with an attempt to infuse new life into the Literary and Philosophical Society, a discussion arose at the annual meeting, on April 2nd, on the old question of novel reading. A proposition was made to do away with the restriction upon works of controversial divinity and novels. One member, opposing this, foresaw "a crop of evils." The price of novels, he said, was so ridiculously small that anyone could form an excellent standard library. They could get the four great classical authors for £2 16s. If they admitted the modern class of novels their library would be flooded with unmitigated trash. They were encouraging the young people to come there, and he thought they should give them sound and not unwholesome food. Ultimately the exclusion of novels was carried by 38 votes to 34. Controversial divinity fared no better.

READING.—The "Juvenile Branch" of the Free Library has been so successful, that it is to be considerably augmented by means of a public subscription, which the mayor has headed with a donation of £100.

SOUTHMOLTON, DEVONSHIRE.—The library of the defunct Mechanics' Institute, consisting of 3,000 volumes, having been transferred to the Town Council, it was formally opened by the Mayor (Mr. Bush) on March 12th, as a Free Lending Library. The sum of £258 was also handed to the Corporation, by the Treasurer of the Institute.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The whole of the library which belonged to the late General Gordon was on April 4th presented by Miss Gordon to the Southampton Free Library, together with a portrait of the hero of Khartoum. The books contain the General's autograph, and have annotations and notes, such as "please return to C. C. G.," and "read prayerfully." Miss Gordon declined to hand the books over to the British Museum, preferring that they should remain at Southampton. Mr. J. Passmore Edwards has given a thousand volumes to the Free Library of this town.

STALYBRIDGE.—Mr. Thomas Aldred, assistant librarian of the Greengate branch of the Salford Free Public Library, has been appointed to the librarianship of the Stalybridge Free Library. There were 113 applicants.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Doncaster. Nineteenth Annual Report of the Borough Free Library Committee. 1888. pp. 12.

The issues were 57,894 works, or 64,758 vols. The daily average of issues was 196 works, being the same as in the previous year, notwithstanding that one of the entrances was closed during the year, and the purchase of three volume novels discontinued. Special attention was given to the selection of juvenile literature. There were 1880 borrowers' tickets issued, being 74 more than in 1887. The news room is crowded at nights. The new building will be opened during the spring. The total expenditure for the year was £453. The balance on January 1, 1888, has increased from £250 to £337.

Halifax. [5th and 6th] Report[s] of the Public Library Committee. 1886-88. pp. 23.

Partly owing to the illness of the librarian, no report was presented in 1887. "Bank Field" was purchased in February, 1887, at a cost of £6,000. The building has been adapted for the purposes of a Library, Museum and Art Gallery; and the grounds, 8½ acres in extent, formed into a public park and children's playground. The alterations cost £1,620, which sum was defrayed from the regular income. The daily average issues of books was 112. There are 31,000 vols. at the central library, where the daily average issue was 400. Books for the blind have been purchased, and have been highly appreciated.

Harrogate. Catalogue of the Harrogate Free Public [Lending] Library (Princes Street, James Street). C. Frederic Harrison, Public Librarian. First Edition, August, 1888. Price Threepence. Crown 8vo, pp. 84.

This is handy in size, and is set in very legible type. Capitals are too freely indulged in. The compiler displays a fair knowledge of pseudonyms, but he fails sometimes to catalogue under, or give cross-references from them. There should be more subject entries but, generally speaking, this catalogue is accurately compiled and there are very few clerical or typographical errors.

Liverpool. Annual Supplementary Catalogue of the Liverpool Library [Proprietary] (with the Annual Report.) MDCCCLXXXVIII. pp. 45.

The catalogue consists of short author entries under subject headings. The annual issues of books for 1888 were 64,119 works, or a daily average of 217 works (or about 520 vols.) This is an advance on the previous year's work. Mr. A. Wakefield, the librarian, has just completed a new general catalogue of which we hope to publish a notice very shortly. The library contains 29,214 works, or 78,248 vols.

Preston. Tenth Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library and Museum of . . . Preston, for the year . . . 1888. pp. 23.

The library contains 15,637 vols., of which number 635 were added during the year, at a cost of £165. Owing to the small-pox epidemic, the

library was closed for seventy-two days, and consequently the issues were lower than those of any previous year in its history, and fewer readers' tickets issued than in any other year. The issues were 85,020 vols., being a daily average issue of 360; and 952 tickets were granted. The payments for library purposes amounted to £684. The museum was attended by 70 persons per day, and cost £264 for its maintenance. The Observatory received 513 visits during the year; and the Picture Gallery at the Town Hall, 2,933 visits. The reserve fund and balance amount to £1,799.

South Australia. Report of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia, with the reports of the Standing Committees for 1887-8. Adelaide, 1888. Folio pp. 43 and 8 plates.

The number of visitors in the Public Library in 1888 was 75,914, in the Museum 69,931, and in the Art Gallery 64,226. The present number of books in the library is 25,433 vols. The departmental catalogues have been kept up to date, and the general catalogue is now compiled from A to M. The Ethnological collection in the Museum received special attention during the year. In all departments the cry is for more space. There were on June 30, 136 affiliated institutes. The total expenditure during the year was £7147 4s. 5d., out of which £1878 3s. was spent on the library; £1362 3s. 8d. on the Museum; £268 4s. 5d. on the Art Gallery; £1557 3s. 11d. on the Art School; £322 3s. 4d. on Country Institutes, &c. The general director and secretary is Mr. R. Kay, and the librarian Mr. R. S. Benham.

West Bromwich. Fourteenth Report of the Free Library Committee. pp. 27.

The lending library contains 9,464 vols., of which number 558 were acquired during the year reported upon; the reference library, 2,532 vols.—41 more than last reported; and the three branches, 765 vols.—in all 12,761 vols. The issues from the lending library were 62,419 vols., and in the reference library 2,643 vols., being a total daily average of 254 vols.—a decrease on the issues of ten preceding years; but there was a satisfactory increase of works consulted in the reference library. The reading rooms are popular. From the subscription library 3,557 works were issued. There were 247 works purchased at a cost of £50. The subscriptions realized £48. There were 336 vols. transferred to the free library. The central library expenditure was £383. The rate realized £603.

Wigan Free Public Library. Eleventh Annual Report of the Librarian (Mr. Henry Tennyson Folkard). March 1889. pp. 28.

The Library contains 33,619 volumes. The present stock is divided as follows:—In the lending library 10,198 vols., and in the reference library 23,421 vols. A classification of the lending stock is given, but not that of the reference library. During 1888 there were 13,336 vols. consulted in the reference library, and 68,430 vols. were issued from the lending library—being an increase of 662 vols. on the issues of the previous year. New borrower's cards were issued to 505 persons. The news room was attended by about a thousand persons a day. The Sunday attendances were 11,356 during the year. More room is required. The Lending Library Catalogue is out of print.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

An attempt at a bibliography of Cyprus ; by Claude Delaval Cobham.

Second edition. Nicosia, 1889. Sm. 8vo, pp. 24.

The first edition appeared in 1886, the present issue is much enlarged. The arrangement is classified and chronological.

Bibliotheca Bibliographica Italica. Catalogo degli scritti di bibliologia, bibliografia e biblioteconomia pubblicati in Italia, e di quelli riguardanti l'Italia pubblicati all' estero, compilata da G. Ottino et G. Fumagalli. Roma : L. Pasqualucci, 1889. 8vo, pp. xvii. 431.

We strongly commend the *Bibliotheca* to our readers. Mr. Tedder has promised a paper, for an early monthly meeting of the Library Association, on "The Bibliography of Bibliographical Literature," which will treat, in detail, of this and similar works.

The January-February number of the *Library Journal* contains some interesting articles, among which may be specially mentioned C. H. Hull's "Helps for Cataloguers in finding full names" (this has been reprinted as a pamphlet), and P. L. Ford's "Private Libraries of New York."

The second volume of the *Répertoire des sources imprimées de la Numismatique Française*, by Arthur Engel and Raymond Serrure, is now ready. A supplementary part, containing the general index, is in the press. The complete work will form two handsome octavo volumes.

Special bibliographies will be well represented in the forthcoming Paris Exhibition. Among the subjects to be illustrated by very complete collections of books are anthropology and ethnology, the liberal arts, the fine and mechanical arts, military science, the mathematical sciences and methods of transport and communication.

An article by H. Denifle on *Die Handschriften der Bibel-Correctorien des 13. Jahrhunderts* appears in *Archiv. für Literatur-und Kirchengeschichte*, bd. iv, heft 3.

New Books.

The Construction of the wonderful Canon of Logarithms. By John Napier, Baron of Merchiston, translated from Latin into English with notes ; and a Catalogue of the various editions of Napier's Works, by William Rae Macdonald, F.F.A. Edinburgh and London : William Blackwood & Sons, 1889. Sm. 4to, pp. xix, 169.

Mr. Macdonald has produced a work which bears evidence of great labour most faithfully performed. We must refrain from writing of the Baron of Merchiston's treatise, and confine our remarks to the careful and exhaustive bibliography which extends from p. 101 to p. 169. For completeness, Mr. Macdonald's catalogue leaves nothing to be desired. It appears to us a model which would well repay the study of anyone entering upon the bibliography of a special subject or author. The title of each work described is given with exactness, followed by the size indicated by both folding and measurement in inches ; a minute collation comes next, and the description closes with notes on the particular edition treated of,

and a statement of the various public libraries in which copies are preserved. As an indication of the thoroughness of Mr. Macdonald's investigations for this part of his work, we may mention that the libraries referred to number forty-three, and include collections in France, Switzerland, Germany, Holland and America.

The Antiquary : a Magazine devoted to the study of the past. Vol. xviii, July-December. London : E. Stock, 1888. Cr. 4to, pp. 284.

Contains numerous articles on literary questions, several being of special bibliographical importance. Mr. W. C. Hazlitt's "Notes on Early British Typography" are interesting, but we notice a slip which curiously enough immediately precedes a caution on the inaccuracy of Herbert. On the entry made by the latter "Tileni Parenesis ad Scotos, 1570, Octavo." Mr. Hazlitt observes "not printed till 1620, and not in Scotland," but as matter of fact it was printed in St. Andrews as well as in London in 1620. The bibliography of the works of Thomas Taylor, the Platonist, appended to Mr. Edward Peacock's valuable article on that writer is worthy of special mention.

Some Aspects of Humanity. By E. Hughes. London, E. Stock, n.d. Sm. 8vo, pp. ix, 265.

A volume of pleasantly written essays. The papers on "Present-Day Novels: American *versus* English," and "The Heirship of the Novel: a Plea for it on the Ground of an exalted Mission," are interesting contributions to the literature of fiction. We regret that no date appears on the title-page.

Correspondence.

SIGNATURES IN BOOKS.

SIR,—As a contribution towards enlarging the list of MSS. appended to Mr. Blades' interesting paper in your April number, I would mention Rawlinson MS. B. 355, a fifteenth century volume, which contains the signatures in question, and which signatures I thus described in the catalogue printed in 1862. "Signacula literarum alphabeti, prout est mos in libris impressis, in margine foliorum inferiori per totum codicem inscripta sunt, incipientia cum signo 'F 2.' literam A præcedente, et desinentia cum signo 'M. 4.' ad fol. 109." In my own copy of this catalogue, I have added these notes: "In Ashmole MS. 1397 (beginning of fifteenth century) several tracts have similar signatures of the sheets at the foot of the pages. A MS. with similar signatures was sold at Dr. J. H. Todd's sale in November 1869, lot 1387."

Bodleian Library.

W. D. MACRAY.

AMATEUR CATALOGUING.

SIR,—Looking through the number for March-April, 1888, of the (American) *Library Journal*, my attention was attracted by the heading of an article, "A Newcastle-on-Tyne Library," and its sub-heading, "Re-classification and Cataloguing as carried out by Amateurs," further excited my curiosity. The editor introduces the article as being from the pen of the librarian of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, but that gentleman, Mr. William Lyall, is only

incidentally alluded to by the writer, Mr. Frederick Emley, the amateur director of the band of unpaid volunteers who have been entrusted with the cataloguing and classifying of a collection of 50,000 volumes. It seems that the library committee, recognising the need of a new catalogue, appealed to the members of the Society for volunteers for the execution of the work, and as a result, the writer says, "we enlisted the services of some of our members, and a few outsiders, who gave their assistance *in return for the use of the library during the period of service*" (the italics are mine).

Having succeeded in getting together a staff of unpaid assistants, and obtained from the Library Bureau a complete outfit for card cataloguing, the work was begun by cutting up "the existing catalogues (copies of which had been gummied for us by the printer), and mounting the titles on cards. One card catalogue has been thus made, and will form the classified catalogue. A second copy, intended for the alphabetical list, is well under way. We have not yet determined to cut up a third copy for titles." This is truly delicious, and the reading of it must have greatly delighted trans-Atlantic experts; but what follows is more delightful still, in the simple confidence with which he introduces his great and new departure in cataloguing to the world. "Our first task is to collate the card titles with the books to insure fulness and accuracy. . . . The collation will be done by two persons, one reading from the book and the other from the card." The common expedients to secure accuracy adopted by Mr. Emley would seem to have been evolved out of his own inner consciousness, and they are gravely explained in detail for the benefit of all who may in the future be engaged in such work. The classification is to be made by experts—*i.e. members of the society*. It is expected they will furnish short introductions to each class, and that these will "probably distinguish between books for the general public, and works for students, for whom a course of study may be mapped out."

Your professional readers will, I feel assured, share Mr. Emley's hope that the catalogue may be printed "as it will show what can be done by amateurs, with little or no help from an expert, *save such time as our librarian can spare from his duties*,"—Yours, &c.

RANDOLPH.

ASSISTANT WANTED.

Sir,—I should be glad to meet with a capable assistant from among the readers of *The Library*. He must be an expert Cataloguer, and have a working knowledge of French and German. The engagement would be for six or twelve months, with a likelihood of a permanency, to a satisfactory assistant. Preference given to those holding Certificate of Library Association. Applicants must state age, salary required, and give at least one professional reference.—BETA (care of the Editor.)

AUSTIN H. JOHNSON. A complete article by Mr. Blades, on the subject you refer to, will appear in an early number of *The Library*.—ED.



The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*. Its official organ is now *The Library*, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

The last Monthly Meeting was held in the Guildhall Library, on Wednesday, 10th April. (For particulars see page 172.) The following gentlemen were elected:—Mr. Josiah Marples, Mr. George Whale, Mr. W. A. Coppinger and Mr. W. R. MacDonald. The Secretaries announced that Mr. De Maine Browne, of Douglas, had joined the Association.

The next MONTHLY MEETING will be held in Gray's Inn Library, on MONDAY, MAY 6th, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. E. C. Thomas will read a Paper entitled "Free Public Libraries for London."

A Meeting of Council will be held at 7 p.m.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Printed for the Publisher, by J. DAVY & SONS, at the DRYDEN PRESS, 137, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The Library.

The Library of Ralph Thoresby.

THORESBY'S name remains familiar in his native town, Leeds, whose topography and history were the main occupation of his later years; and his life and its incidents possess a general interest, rendering them worthy of a more wide-spread acquaintance. In his own day he attained a literary celebrity which is remarkable when we consider the position he filled in a provincial town then of no great magnitude, and chiefly noted for its manufacture of cloth. This celebrity owed much to a museum of coins and other curiosities, the foundation inherited from his father, he himself largely adding to it: and its catalogue, under the title of *Musæum Thoresbyanum*, forms a valuable augmentation of his great topographical work, *Ducatus Leodiensis*, published in the year following the death of Queen Anne.¹ This museum catalogue is not restricted to a record of the curiosities that constitute a museum in the common acceptance of the word; it extends to a quantity of manuscripts and printed books, which, although many of them curious enough, we should rather assign to his library.

Thoresby first gives a list of the various editions of the Bible, and portions of the Bible, in his possession. This, with some particulars relating to them, takes up fifteen of his folio pages. Nine Latin manuscripts head the list, the last of them an anonymous quarto in verse. Then follows a collection of printed Bibles, some in Latin, some in English, dating from the year 1498 to the contemporary publication of Matthew Henry, the commentator. And these had been more to their owner than bibliographical curiosities. Thoresby, who records his having read through the entire Bible about a score of times between his marriage in 1685 and the year 1723 (two years before his death), particularizes his use, among others, of the following editions:—

Tyndall's "Pentateuch in English 8vo. printed at different Places

¹ There are some copies of *Musæum Thoresbyanum* as a distinct volume.

as the Times would permit; at the end of the *fyrst Boke of Moses called Genesis* is added, *emprinted at Marlborow in the Land of Hesse, by me Hans Luft, the Yere of our Lorde mccccxxx. the xvii. daye of January.*" No place, time, nor printer is named with any of the other four books. This Pentateuch had been presented to Thoresby by a Mr. Richard Beard of Shrewsbury; and, from the descriptive particulars given, it is evident the copy was a complete one, which, says Archdeacon Cotton in his work on "Editions of the Bible and Parts thereof," is "very rare indeed." He mentions one in possession of Dr. Daly, Bishop of Cashel, that had been supposed to be the only complete copy known, but questions if "the late Reverend Viscount Aston did not possess a similar one?"

"*The Bible in Englishe, that is to say, the contents of all the Holy Scriptures, both of the old and newe Testament, according to the translation that is appointed to be read in Churches. Imprinted in London in White Crosse street by Richard Harryson An. Dom. 1562.*" This was Cranmer's Bible and one of those objected to by the Rhemist Translators of the New Testament. Cotton asks "if there were two different impressions of it in this year?"

"An ancient edition of the Bible, in Quarto," says Thoresby's Diary; probably that entered in his catalogue,—"*The English Bible, in 4to. 1569, as appears by the Title of the N. T. in which year Archbishop Parker's noble Edition of the Bible was first published, yet is this the old Translation.*"¹

"*The Byble whych is all the Holy Scripture, in which are containyd the old and newe Testament truelye and purely translated into Englyshe by Tho. Matthewe 1537, and now imprinted in the yere of our Lorde MDXLIX. (Folio London) by Tho. Raynalde and Will Hyll. . . .* That the name of *Tyndall* (who was burnt for reputed Heresy) might not prejudice the Book, the name of *Tho. Matthewe* (Prebendary of St. Paul's, who dedicated it to the King) was used, though *Tyndall* had translated all but the *Hagiographia*, which was done by *John Rogers*, the Proto-Martyr, in Qu. Mary's reign, who added Notes, &c."

"Another edition of the *English Bible* in *Folio*, of the very same year 1549; but by the different character, and that *Shibboleth* tank for thank, it appears to have been printed beyond sea, and, I presume at Zurich; M. Le Long mentioning one in Fol. *Tiguri* (1549

¹ Parker's, or "The Bishops'" Bible, was first published in 1568, and again in 1569.

vel) 1550."¹ And there was also another curious edition, now known to have been also printed at Zurich, which Thoresby thus describes:—

"The *English Bible* in 4to, but printed beyond sea, as appears by the Form of the Letters; every other Page is numbered in Capital Numeral Letters. The *Psalter of David*, *Solomon's Ballets*, and the first four chapters in the *Lamentations* are divided into four Sections, like verses. What is not in the *Hebrew*, though it be in the *Septuagint*, is not made part of the chapter, but an *Apparatus* thereto; so Chap. I of *Proverbs* begins at the 8th verse of the present edition."

To the list of Bibles there is appended a rather curious notice of early Concordances,² not among those mentioned by Le Long, but possessed by Thoresby,—“as that of *Robert Fitz-Henry*, of which there are two editions in 4to. 1578 and 1613, by *Chr. and Rob. Barker*, the former Printer to Qu. *Elizabeth*, and the latter to *K. James*. He also,” Thoresby continues, “omits the noted *Mr. John Downham's Concordance to the last Translation, allowed by his Majesty's special Privilege to be printed and bound with the Bible in all volumes*. Here are both the *Folio* edition 1629, and that in 8vo. 1663. Also *Mr. Sam. Newman's* (who resided in these Parts of *Yorkshire*) An. 1650, *Fol. Lond.* of which the later Editions are commonly called the Cambridge Concordance: That of *Rob. Wickens* was printed at *Oxford*, 8vo. 1655.”

Various editions of the Book of Common Prayer conclude this section of Thoresby's Catalogue. The first edition of Queen Elizabeth's he pronounces “very rare”; but the one he most valued was, doubtless, that given to him by Sharp, Archbishop of York, in 1699, when Thoresby severed his connexion with the Nonconformists, and wholly joined the Church of England. It was a folio edition, “a curious one,” which the Archbishop states in an accompanying letter to have been bought by him on leaving London for York, and afterward used in his Chapel at Bishopthorpe. It still exists in its old morocco binding, with the initials “R. T.” written upon the title-page, in the possession of Dr. Gott, Dean of Worcester, and formerly Vicar of Leeds.

Thoresby next catalogues his manuscripts, an extensive and varied collection, classified in folios, quartos and octavos. A prefa-

¹ James Le Long, the French historian and author of *Bibliotheca Sacra*, sive syllabus omnium ferme Sacrae Scripturae editionum. It was first published at Paris in 1709, two vols. 8vo.

² The first edition of Cruden's was published in 1735.

tory note informs us that a portion of these had already been inserted in a catalogue of English MSS. printed at Oxford in 1697, the year of Thoresby's admission to the Royal Society.¹ Some in Latin head the list, and to the particulars of one volume, containing four distinct manuscripts, there is this curious addition,—“This once belonged to *John Vicars* Rector of *Newton* near Tadcaster.”² The Catalogue of whose Library I shall add from his Autograph, to satisfy the curiosity of such as desire to know the Rates of Books before the Art of Printing was invented.” The works which constitute the said Library number twenty-two, and the price of each is affixed. Most costly of all are the works of St. Augustine, in six volumes, Three pounds. Least in price, *Sermones Jacobi Voraginis*, in two books, Two-shillings-and-eightpence; and the works of Macrobius, Twelve-pence. *Opera divi Hieronimi*, in four books,³ and *Opera Dionisii Chartusiani*, in five books, each Thirty-three-shillings-and-fourpence. *Opera Plutarchi* and *Dionysii Areopagiti*, each Six-and-eightpence. Bede, in two books, Ten shillings; and *Thomas de Aquino super Sententias*, in four volumes, Four shillings.

Immediately afterward comes a work bought by Thoresby himself at the first auction of books held in Leeds (by Simmons of Sheffield, bookseller, in 1692). He does not tell us how much he gave for it, but *Scala Mundi* was an historical work, extending from the earliest age of British history to the 12th year of King Henry the Sixth, which he held in high estimation; and it received special mention by his friend Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle, in the “Historical Library.” So Thoresby writes,—“That this is a book of great value appears by the character given of it by a Right Reverend Author, who all will allow to be a most competent Judge, and who is pleased to mention it, with others of great value referr’d to by Archbishop *Usher*, Mr. *Selden*, &c.” Seventy-two years after the Leeds auction *Scala Mundi* again came under the hammer, at Bristow’s sale of Thoresby’s coins and manuscripts in London; and its companion in one lot was the relic of the Rector of Newton-Kyme’s library, preceding it in Thoresby’s catalogue, as here mentioned. Both manuscripts were on vellum, the first one having many letters painted and gilt. They sold in 1764 for Nine shillings to a buyer named Collinson, according to a priced catalogue possessed by E. Hailstone, Esq., of Walton Hall, Yorkshire.

¹ This publication is mentioned in some of Dr. Edmund Gibson’s letters to Thoresby, written at the time.

² Newton-Kyme.

Altogether, the manuscripts fill nearly thirty pages of Thoresby's catalogue. A large proportion are topographical, and many have interest and value relating to general history, particularly from the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the Civil Wars and the Revolution. For example:—

"Instructions from Qu. *Elizabeth* for Sir *Francis Walsingham* Ambassadors to *France*, with letters to and from the Lord *Burleigh*, Earl of *Leicester*, Sir *Tho. Smith*, and other Chief Ministers of State, about the French affairs, and the Queen of *Scots*, An. 1570, 71, 72."

"Letters of Sir *Francis Bacon*, Lord *Verulam*, Viscount *St. Albans*, and Lord High Chancellor of *England*, written during the reigns of Qu. *Elizabeth* and K. *James*." They were the gift of Richard Hewet of Stockton, Gentleman; and Thoresby adds this note,—“Those in the latter reign are since published and illustrated; with an excellent Historical introduction and Observations by *Rob. Stephens*, Esq.”

"The Proceedings of the Lord President Thomas, Viscount *Wentworth* (afterwards Earl of *Strafford*) and Council in the North, from 7 Sept. 1629 to the 15 Jan. 1632, in two Volumes, being the Books of Compositions for the Mannors, Lands and Goods of Recusants; the *Originals* subscribed by the Parties compounding."

"The *Informations, Examinations and Confessions concerning the Yorkshire Plot*, 1663, under the Parties own Hand. This is the Original taken before Sir *Tho. Osborne* (afterwards Duke of *Leedes*), Sir *Jo. Dawney* (afterwards Lord *Downe*), Sir *Jo. Goodrick*, Sir *Jo. Armitage*, Sir *Godfrey Copeley*, Sir *R. Mauleverer*, Sir *Tho. Wentworth*, Sir *Rob. Hilyard* and other Justices who have attested the several Informations, under their own hands. The Present of the Judges Associate."

As may be supposed, a number of Thoresby's MSS. of this class related to the topography and history of Leeds, and of the County of York. One of these, given by its author, must have been of especial local interest,—“Notes and observations of Mr. *Robert Nesse* of *Leedes*, late Sergeant at Mace, concerning the late Wars”; and with it was another set of “notes” by him, on the Corporation, Charters of Incorporation, and Elections under them. Among the 8vo MSS. was “The first Register of *St. John's Church* in *Leedes*, bought of the memorable old Clerk,² after it was first transcribed into the new

¹ Who published, in 1702, a complete edition of Lord Bacon's Letters, with notes.

² In the Church Porch was an inscription for “*Robert Taylor* the first Clerk, who dyed 7 Jan. 1695, aged ninety-two years and eleven months.”

Register." There was also in folio, bound up with Libri Pascales of two noted Vicars of Leeds, Robert and Alexander Cooke, and their immediate successors,—“The *First Register* of Births, Weddings and Burials, Temp. *Hen. 8.*” How this came to be a deposit in Thoresby’s Library does not appear, unless, like the next in the Catalogue, the original “Boke of Accompts” of the Churchwardens from 1583 to 1628, containing autographs of the Vicars and other principal inhabitants of the time, it was given to him by a family connexion whom he calls cousin, Marmaduke Hicks, four times Mayor of Leeds. But it is very desirable that the present whereabouts of this “First Register” should be discovered, if still in existence. The earliest volume of the Register now kept at the old Parish Church of Leeds does not commence until the year 1572.

“Scotland’s Sovereignty Asserted,” published in 1693, is the translation of a Latin treatise by Sir Thomas Craig of Riccarton, Justice-Depute, from a manuscript lent by Thoresby for the purpose, and now among the Lansdowne collection in the British Museum; but it was a rather inaccurate transcript, and not the original MS., if we may rely upon a statement in the printed book.

One very curious manuscript was a “*Corpus Christi Playe* in antique English verse,” the gift of Henry Fairfax, Esq., whose Father of the same name became 4th Lord Fairfax on the death, without male issue, of the famous Parliamentary General. “Some of the Trades themselves in the several scenes,” says Thoresby, “are antiquated, as are the names of others, *Bowers* and *Fletchers*, *Wefferes*, *Cappers* (*Hatters* added in a later Hand), *Estrereners*, *Gyrdillers*, *Thylletheckers*, *Spicers*, *Shavers*, *Parchmynners*, *Shermen* and *Wyne-Drawers* were of old, but *Merceres* added at the End as modern, *Richard* the Father of Bishop *Morton* of *Durham* being the first of that Trade, at least in these Northern Parts of *England.*”

Another folio manuscript, No. 34 in the Catalogue, would probably interest many readers even now. It is thus entered:—“*A Discourse of Ambassages compiled by Sir Henrie Unton* (who was twice Ambassador from Qu. *Elis.* to the King of *France*) which treats of the good Gifts an Ambassadour must be endowed with, both as to the Body and Fortune; of the Number of Ambassadours, of his Preparation for, and Behaviour in his Journey, and before a straunge Prince, dureing his Abode in a straunge Land, and at his Departure; that Ambassadours are Safe by the Law of Nations; whether excusable yf found to practise any Thing against it during his Ambassage. Of the Interceptors of Ambassadours Letters; and, lastly, of the

Privileges of Ambassadors in their own Country after their Return."

There were several manuscripts relating to the Isle of Man, including a description of the Island and its condition in 1653, by James Chaloner, and by him "dedicated to *Thomas Lord Fairfax*, then Lord of *Man* and of the Isles, wherein he celebrates his Lordship's Respects to *Antiquities*, in patronising with Purse and Countenance Mr. *Roger Dodsworth* in that his singular Piece, the *Monasticon*." And there was "a briefe historie" of "*Manne, from the firste inhabiting thereof, until the same came into the handes of the Englishe Nation, collected, translated, and faithfully framed by Sam. Stanley; dedicated to Hen. Earl of Derby*."

The original compositions of this class extended to Ireland, and worthy of note is,—"*A Description of the County of West Meath, by Sir Henry Piers of Tristernaugh*, in the said County, Baronet, done at the Request of the R. R. Dr. *Anthony Dopping* Bishop of *Meath*. It is the Original, and was presented to me by his Grandson Sir *Hen. Piers, Bart.*" Sir Henry Piers was an occasional visitor of Thoresby's, and related to his wife by a distant marriage connexion.

Some idea of the value of this collection of manuscripts may be formed from the instances here given, but they are far from indicating its variety and extent. Excluding a very large collection of autographs and autograph letters, deeds and other ancient writings, there were in all two hundred and sixty volumes of manuscripts, many of them containing a number bound up together. The subjects comprised were sacred and secular, philosophical and scientific, beside those of the character already spoken of. There were Sermons, Polemical Treatises (Roman Catholic and Protestant), Genealogies, Herald's Visitations, Cartularies, Diaries, Journals of Travel, Meteorological Records, Tracts and Miscellanies, some original manuscripts that had been published, more which had not, besides transcripts from originals, many by the hand of Thoresby himself.

The list of printed books which he gives is confined to books printed before the end of the 15th century. It is introduced by a passage of sufficient bibliographical interest to warrant insertion here at length. Concluding the catalogue of manuscripts Thoresby says,—"*Books published in the Infancy of the Art of Printing* being frequently inserted in Catalogues of this Nature, as particularly appears by that choice one of the Lord Bishop of *Ely's* (in *Cat. librorum Manuscriptorum Angliae*, Tom. II. p. 379. &c.) in his Lordship's inestimable Library, which I have often beheld with Admiration, I shall insert a few of those valuable Remains that have fallen to my

Share, which were printed before the year 1500.¹ Herein I shall omit a Fragment of the *Liber de consolatione Theologie per fratrem Johannem de Tambaco, An. Dni. M.CCC.LXVI.* as either the Time when the Author wrote it, or a Mistake in the Press, none pretending to show any printed book of that Antiquity. And *Guido de Monte Rocherii*, mentioned No. 102, amongst the *Manuscripts*, though every first and last leaf in a *Quaternio*, being Parchment, is no conclusive Argument to prove it so; the Printers as well as Writers of Books sometimes intermixing Parchment with Paper for Strength's sake; and I have a *Mass-Book* printed after the same Manner, so late as the year 1516."

The earliest of the Catalogue under the heading "Ancient Printed Books" is dated in the year 1475,—"*Jacobi Januensis legenda aurea, alias Historia Longobardica vocitata. Impressum Parisiis per Udalricum Gering.*"

The next is a quarto, containing the Breviloquium and Biblia Pauperum of Bonaventura, printed at Venice in 1477, "the Capital Letters painted as in MS."

From the Press of Saxton there were,—"*The Pylgremage of the Soule translatid out of Frenche into Englysshe, and emprynted at Westmestre, by William Caxton, and fynysshed the Sixth Day of Jwyn the yere of our Lord MCCCCLXXXIII, and the first yere of the reigne of Kynge Edward the Fyfthe.*"

Thoresby notes the shortness of this reign, "but one Month and twelve Days." Its extent has been variously calculated, and if its commencement be assigned to the day of Edward the Fourth's death, 9 April 1483, the dating of this book makes it longer than Thoresby states. Sir Harris Nicolas's reckoning, from 9 April to the 26th of June following, is well substantiated; but, even then, how

¹ Dr. John Moore, Chaplain to Lord Chancellor Finch, afterward Bishop of Norwich, and thence translated to Ely in 1707, was on friendly terms with Thoresby, who frequently visited him when in London. In the Review of his Life for the year 1701, Thoresby writes: "Dr. Moore, Bishop of Norwich, showed me some very great curiosities in his invaluable library, both manuscript (as prayers written by Queen Elizabeth's own hand, a volume of Letters of Lord Burleigh) and printed, with the emendations of the noted authors, written *propria manu*, as Jos. Scaliger, Dan Heinsius, Junius, Casaubon, Bishop Pearson.

"Amongst the entirely printed books I was surprised to find one, *Liber Catholicon, ANNO. MCCCCLX. alma in urbe Moguntina*, which is five or six years before Tully's Offices, hitherto reputed the first printed book."

This appears to be the same with "*Balbi de Janua Summa quæ vocatur Catholicon. Moguntia J. Gutenberg, 1460*," of which a copy in the Earl of Hopetoun's library has just been sold at Sotheby's.

many other books are known to have been published in the reign of King Edward the Fifth?

"*Le Livre Royal, or book for a Kyng reduced out of French, by Wylliam Caxton 1484. Fol. The Figures are painted.*"

"*Higden's Polychronicon, printed by William Caxton, who having chaunged certayne Wordes, which in these dayes be neither usyd, ne understanden (Lib. Sept. p. CCCLXXX.) added to last Book of his own Composure, till the yere 1460. Fol.*"

"*The Boke of Eneydos compyled by Vyrghyle whiche hathe be translated out of Latyne into Frenshe, and out of Frenshe into Englishe, by me Willm. Caxton. Fol. 1490.*"

"Waltere Hylton's *scala perfectionis* englished and printed (by Command of Margaret Countess of Richmond, Mother to K. H. 7.) in *Wylliam Caxton's Hows by Wynkyn de Werde. Anno Salutis 1484.* To which is annexed the *traytte abreged of the arte to lerne well to deye; translated oute of Frenshe in to Englishe, by Willm. Caxton MiiiiClxxxX.*"

The remainder were principally either religious or medical works, printed at Venice, Louvain, Nuremberg, Paris, London and elsewhere. Besides an English version of "The Ship of Fooles," printed in 1508, Thoresby had *Sebastianni Brant Stultifera navis Narragonice. Argentine A. 1497.* Of another book, "a very large Folio, printed at Cologne in 1485, *Destructorium Vitiurum a cujusdam Fibri Lignarii filio,*" he says in a note,—*"The Author's name appears to be Alexander an Englishman, and particularly of Worcestershire, the 25th. cap. 6 Partis, and the 17th. of the 4th."*

Having gone through, in detail, his collection of the earliest examples of typography, Thoresby continues,—*"It would be too tedious to mention those of the next Century, else there are some very rare to be met with, that were printed before and after the Reformation, as a Mass-Book with the word Papa, and the Festival of St. Thomas of Canterbury, expunged upon the memorable Visitation 1548."* He, however, further mentions others, including Ptolemy's Geography with Maps, 1511 and 1522, and various works upon coins, medals and antiquities. But there must have been a very considerable residue of this valuable Library of which no record is given. Notwithstanding Thoresby's pecuniary losses and straits, he contrived to spare money for books, particularly on his visits to London. When there so early as the year 1680, a young man of twenty-two and still in trouble for the recent loss of his father, he mentions "buying books and pictures of good and great persons"; and in his Diary for May, 1695, he wrote,—*"bought many books*

(cheap I thought, which made me throw away too much money) near Gray's Inn." Again, a couple of days afterward, when about to return home,—“took leave of Mr. Hill, bought some valuable pamphlets of his kinsman, and at Parkhurst's putting up books.” On other occasions he speaks of time spent at the book-sellers Parkhurst, Wright, Alsop, Churchill and Batley. In Moorfields he bought a very rare edition of the New Testament in English, printed in 1536, a quarto volume which is thus described in his catalogue:—“After the Title prefixed to the Epistles is a large Prologue, there are small Pictures in the *Gospels*, and larger of the Visions in the *Revelations*. At the end are added the *Pistles* taken out of the Old Testament, which are read in the Church after the Use of *Salisbury*, and a Table to find the Epistles and Gospels.”¹

The price paid for this is not mentioned. In his last visit to London, in 1723, he made some purchases on easy terms enough. He entered in his Diary for the 8th of April,—“at Baitman's, the noted booksellers, and at the auction with Mr. Mattaire.” It does not appear that he bought anything then; but on the 13th is added,—“Looking amongst some pamphlets; bought several Bishops and Archbishops sermons at pence a-piece”; and two days later,—“to Mr. King's; sought out more valuable books at penny a-piece, as many as came to 4s. 2d.”

There is little doubt that Thoresby's Library had as much benefit from his purse as the extent of its contents would allow; yet it is equally certain that, like his museum, it owed no less, and probably more, to the kindly generosity of friends and acquaintances. “Don.” recurs often in his Catalogue. Without either brilliant talent or high education, he was a man of the highest principle, great simplicity and amiability, as industrious as he was unpretending, and by no means destitute of good sense and solid attainments. There must have been something more than ordinarily estimable in Thoresby, or he would never have been valued as he was by men far above him in social rank and scholastic standing, nor have made the favourable impression upon more casual acquaintances which the contributions to his remarkable collection indicate. Then, he really excelled in his knowledge of coins; and his assistance was both applied for and given towards publications of magnitude, demanding research. This in part accounts for a number of valuable works he had, as the Author's gift.

Christopher Wren, the son of Sir Christopher, presented his “*Numismatum Antiquorum*” to Thoresby; George Hickes, D.D.,

¹ This edition is not in the list given by Archdeacon Cotton.

his "Thesaurus" with Sir Andrew Fountain's "Numismata Saxonica" annexed; Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle, his "Historical Library," besides a Saxon Heptateuch, that is, the five books of Moses with Joshua and Judges added, for a dozen copies of which the Bishop subscribed; and from Edmund Gibson he had a copy of the new edition of Camden's Britannia, although the catalogue only mentions other two, one of which Thoresby had purchased for the sake of Camden's autograph in it. His record of another gift is rather amusing,—“after dinner walked to the Strand to Mr. Smith's, but he being abroad, I spent most of the time with Captain Stevens, who giving me his Monasticon Hibernicum, I treated him at Tavern (2^d).” Thoresby was not by any means penurious, but he had good need to take thought of expenditure.

These last mentioned presentations were, as before said, in return for services rendered; but many of the numerous contributions to Thoresby's collection, bibliographical and otherwise, lead to a supposition that the donors imagined it would be more lasting than it proved to be. And Ralph Thoresby himself most probably designed its preservation, when, in a will made the year before his death, he bequeathed to his eldest son of the same name, Rector of Stoke-Newington, all his "Library and collections of manuscripts maps prints coins antiquities and curiosities natural and artificial of what nature or kind soever, and other goods and chattels in my Museum and Repository or either of them." Alas! leaving the remainder of Museum Thoresbyanum for ultimate dispersion at home, Ralph Thoresby the Younger removed to Stoke-Newington the library and coins. These he retained until his sudden death in 1763, and next year the coins and manuscripts were sold by auction at Spring Gardens, Charing Cross, by Whiston Bristow; the printed books at a bookseller's, well-known in his day, Thomas Payne of the Mews Gate.

In the Leeds Library there is one small quarto volume of historical Tracts in MS. which contains Thoresby's autograph, and this volume is not specified in his printed catalogue. Doubtless, his library received many additions after "Ducatus Leodiensis" was published. Bishop Nicolson's presentation copy of the "Historical Library" is in the Chetham Library at Manchester. There are in the British Museum two curious manuscripts which Thoresby probably obtained from some of the Fairfaxes. These he entered in his Catalogue:—

"A Book of *Musical Compositions* pointed to Tunes in four Parts, by *Robard Fairfax*, Doctor in Musick; Sir *Tho. Phelyppis*, Will. *Newarke*, Gilbert *Banaster*, Will. *Cornysh jun.* Ric. *Davy*, *Sheringham Browne*, and Edm. *Turgess*."

"*Certayne Tables showing the breake of the daye, with the Twilight, the riseing and setting of the Sunne, the lengthe of the daye and night, for every daye throughout the yeare for ever, servinge for the Elevation of the Pole 54 gr. and 30 mi. Whereunto is joyned a Discourse of the yeare with a Description of the 12 Monthes and Signes, and also a Iytell Treatise of the 7 Planets, wythe other Rules and Tables serving for a general Calendar, for ever, collected by Oswald Whittington Student in the Mathematics. Finished at Denton 1584, and dedicated to Sir Tho. Fairfax, one of Her Majesty's honourable Council established in the Northe.*"¹

In possession of Mr. Hailstone, beside the priced Sale Catalogue already referred to, are several other relics of Thoresby and his Library:—

Seven of nine folio MS. volumes, Lot 27 in Bristow's sale, and bearing in the autograph of Thoresby, "containing the Names of all such Persons as have come from beyond the Seas, as also the places from whence they came, and where they intend to lodge, together with their Business, taken by Order of the Parliament, 1655." The nine volumes were sold by Bristow for eighteen shillings.

A curious 4to of 158 pages, containing a History of the Parish of Leeds of uncertain authorship, and some other MSS., with several rare prints inserted. It has on the title-page,—"*E Libris Rad. Thoresby.*"

The presentation copy of *Vicaria Leodiensis* to Lady Elizabeth Hastings, with whom Thoresby was intimately acquainted. Her donation of one thousand pounds brought about the long-talked-of erection of a new church in Leeds, with an account of which the *Vicaria* concludes. Mr. Hailstone's copy, formerly in the Sledmere library, contains this inscription in Thoresby's hand,—"*The Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth Hastings is humbly requested to accept of this from her Ladyship's most obliged humble servant, Ralph Thoresby.*"

The greater part of Thoresby's library must now be widely scattered, and can only be traced in comparatively few instances. It is likely that many of his volumes occupy shelves on the other side of the Atlantic.

THE AUTHOR OF *Ralph Thoresby the Topographer;
His Town and Times.*

¹ Add MSS. 5465 and 18602. Denton Park, Yorkshire, came to the Fairfaxes through the mother of the above Sir Thomas; Isabel dr. of John Thwaits.

Donations and other Aids to the Library Rate.¹

IN endeavouring to give a brief account of this important subject, which has not, so far as I have been able to ascertain, hitherto engaged very much attention, I shall confine myself as closely as possible to gifts from outside sources to rate-supported institutions, and ignore all grants in aid of the rate made by the municipal or other authorities. Though the whole of my library life has been spent in connection with one of the largest of English Free Libraries, my sympathies have always been largely drawn out on behalf of the smaller and less affluent institutions, and I would wish it to be understood that the more practical portion of this paper is intended to apply mainly to them.

It is, of course, impossible to give anything like an exhaustive account of gifts to Free Libraries, and I do not intend attempting so hopeless a task, but propose to confine myself to the experiences of a few prominent or typical institutions in this country and in America, for the purpose of illustrating the extreme contrasts in the amounts both of money and books given to similar libraries. I have entirely failed to obtain anything like exhaustive, or trustworthy returns, for the simple reason that the required particulars do not exist in any accessible form, and this applies equally in the case both of American and English Free Libraries. A reference to the great American Library Report (1876) will show that it was found impossible to obtain any really trustworthy statistics under this head; moreover, the purely rate-supported libraries are so mixed up in the returns furnished with all sorts of institutions, schools and universities, subscription and endowed libraries, &c., that it was found quite impossible to separate them.

In America the Free Libraries appear under various names, as—"Public," "Free Public," "Town," "City," "Township," and so on. Some are under the puzzling heading of "Social," whatever that may mean. I find that the rough total of gifts of all kinds, excluding State and municipal aid to various libraries without distinction in America, during about thirty-five years, is estimated at something like six millions sterling.

My own rough estimate of gifts to rate-supported libraries in this country, during the same period, including books, but excluding all

¹ Read before the Library Association, Glasgow, August, 1888.

municipal aid, amounts to about one million sterling. To be more particular, I find, comparing two of the great free libraries of America and England, that the former received in donations, about 115,000 volumes and 300,000 pamphlets (21,000 of the former, and 12,000 of the latter in a single year), being in books one-fourth of its entire stock, and in pamphlets three-fourths, besides an amount of cash as an endowment bringing in an annual income of about £1,700. The English Library received something like 13,000 volumes, or say one-seventh of its total stock, while its only cash donation took the form of half the cost of its building. The value and quality of the donations at Boston are well-known; the Ticknor Spanish Library being probably unique, and standing at the head of all similar collections. In another of the largest American Free Libraries I find the donations of books equal fully one-third of its entire stock.

As the American Free Library Act was passed in 1854, and our own in 1855, comparisons would be easy if the necessary figures were forthcoming, and the result should be interesting and instructive; but I have only been able to identify about ninety of the libraries in the American list as free public libraries, in our English sense of the name, out of upwards of three thousand five hundred, with a total book stock of something like 15,000,000 volumes! Of course the real total must be much larger.

The private libraries of over 1000 volumes each in the United States are estimated to exceed one hundred thousand. But though an exact estimate, or comparison, extending over a long period is impossible, a fairly accurate statement can, I find, be made of the donations in money value to American and English Free Libraries during the past year. For America the figures run to something like £330,000; for the United Kingdom to about £47,000. The Newbery (Chicago) bequest alone, which occurred, however, in the previous year, amounted to over half a million sterling. I am afraid we shall wait a long time before we can hope to approach the magnificence of such almost overwhelming liberality. It is true we have no "Bonanza Kings," "Iron Magnates," "Oil Emperors," &c., but we have our Rothschilds, and other millionaires who have found England the most prolific of gold mines, and have won their millions with less of actual toil than their brethren across the Atlantic have won theirs. Not the wealth, but the public spirit and, I fear, the desire for intellectual advancement which prompts such large-hearted generosity is lacking.

Of course, in making comparisons, local circumstances and conditions have to be considered, and the popularity or otherwise of a

particular free library has, doubtless, an important influence on its donations. To give some idea of the great disparity that exists between similar libraries in this matter, I take almost at random the figures for Richmond (Surrey) and Barrow. Of the total stock at Richmond (14,000 volumes), 11,000 are donations. This library is also peculiar as being one of the very few which have a small subscription list and a voluntary rate. At Barrow, a library of somewhat similar size and open for about the same period, the figures are in marked contrast. The entire stock is about 13,000, and of these less than 1,600, or say one-eighth, are donations. As we have already seen, in one of the largest English free libraries the book donations are as one in seven; while, at the Great American Free Library at Boston, they are as one in four; at Richmond, as eleven out of every fourteen; at Barrow, as one in eight, and an examination of other libraries would probably show still greater contrasts and discrepancies. I am, of course, aware there are special circumstances for the exceptional position, in this matter of donations, of Richmond among the minor free libraries, but many of the efforts made there might be tried, I think, elsewhere with fair prospects of success. I shall revert to such efforts in greater detail later on, but I will say here that, making every allowance for varying circumstances, it might be worth considering how far the difference in results is proportionate to the energy displayed, and to the methods used. Mr. Ballinger's plan for stimulating flagging interest in the library at Doncaster recurs to one's mind in this connection, though I must not be understood as unreservedly advising their adoption.

With respect to the value of book donations, experiences and opinions will doubtless vary considerably. Mr. Pink, the librarian at Cambridge said, at an Association meeting, that the Cambridge Public Library derived two-thirds of its stock from really acceptable donations. At the Ealing Library, more than half the books were presented, and were said to be of a useful if not valuable description. On the other hand, I find it stated in that valuable repertory of useful knowledge for librarians, the "Boston Reports," that of 3,200 volumes given to start the Manchester Free Library, at least 2,000 were practically worthless. Again, Mr. Robert Harrison, the librarian of the London Library, in a paper read before the Library Association in 1877, makes the following remarks on the subject of book gifts: "I confess I have not much faith in any plan for forming a library by the book donations of its well-wishers. The books received in this way are often so unattractive that they encumber the shelves for years and, for the good they do,

might have been buried in the sea. Brilliant exceptions, of course, there are." While agreeing to a certain extent with Mr. Harrison, I think it would not be difficult to show that many free libraries would be distinctly poorer if the bulk of their donations were taken from their shelves. One, at least, would almost require to close its doors as a result. One of my earliest recollections of sayings connected with library book donations is: "Donations to free libraries mean, generally speaking, 'Rubbish shot here.'" Probably that was the experience at that time, but it does not, I think, apply to anything like the same extent now. Of course subscriptions and donations, both of money and books, must always be an untrustworthy and, therefore, unsatisfactory source of support, and all free libraries depending entirely upon such aid may be said to exist on sufferance, and certainly they hold their position by a most precarious tenure; but, as a supplement to the rate, they have very considerable value and importance. Having in view the apparent hopelessness, at least for the present, of obtaining an increase of the rate—the true solution of the difficulties under which some libraries struggle for existence—I think it well worth considering how far existing agencies may be increased, and efforts to obtain additional voluntary aid developed, in order in some degree to avoid the heavy weight of debt which tends to cripple the resources and impede the progress of so many otherwise promising and useful institutions, in some cases threatening their very existence. It is matter for surprise that, so far as I know, no special effort has been made in many of these cases to open a subscription list, to start an endowment fund, or to raise a voluntary rate. This last expedient has worked with a fair amount of success in two or three towns in Lancashire and elsewhere.

And now to consider briefly, but practically, the various modes of stimulating and increasing donations of books and money. The wise librarian at the outset of his career in a new town or library, should at once endeavour to establish friendly relations with the leading newspapers in his district and, by means of their always willing help, have the necessity for supplementing the rate by donations thoroughly ventilated and kept in the foreground. A few judicious leaders, an occasional paragraph inserted, a casual advertisement, to be renewed from time to time, are bound to bear fruit, and these efforts must not slack. Lincoln's motto "Peg away," should be the watchword of the energetic librarian. Then the best articles, or extracts from them, should be reprinted in circular form and, with a special report, sent to all likely people. All gifts would, of course, be prominently

recorded in the daily or weekly prints, as well as acknowledged direct to the donors. The necessity for such extraneous aid should be pressed home in the speeches made at the preliminary meetings and opening ceremonies, while special efforts would naturally be made to enlist the sympathies of gentlemen of position, and to persuade them to institute a canvas among their friends. In the early years of the Liverpool Public Library, the last plan was carried out with a considerable amount of success, and subscription books were taken round the leading offices, and even on 'Change, by influential citizens. Even a better result was obtained by the same plan in Manchester. What is wanted is systematic and continuous rather than spasmodic and intermittent efforts; for that even such a popular object as the Hospital Saturday Fund will suffer from relaxed or fluctuating effort is proved by the fact, that last year the total amount collected in Liverpool, fell short by some two thousand pounds of the sum raised in Birmingham, a much smaller place. It is quite certain that improved organization, different methods and a more systematic and continuous plan would produce a very different result. Something probably approaching the plan of the *Bureaux de Bienfaisance* of Paris, Brussels and other continental cities is what is wanted. There the appeal reaches every class and almost every individual. I need scarcely say, however, that boundless zeal and perseverance may prove useless unless guided by tact and discrimination.

It is clearly important also to enlist the active co-operation of all members of committees of other important local bodies. They would often be able to carry the propaganda into places closed to the librarian, and would, besides, be far more likely to meet with success.

Of course it would be much better if no occasion existed for such efforts, and there are plenty who are ready to exclaim against anything like eleemosynary aid to free libraries. But we have to face things as they are, and I have endeavoured to show that donations are a valuable and much needed help when the rate is inadequate to the proper maintenance of a library. Collections are made now-a-days, and subscriptions and donations continually solicited and obtained on behalf of schools and all kinds of educational institutions, even universities, and surely the free library, which Carlyle described as "the true university of these days," and which has become so more fully than he thought of, with its adjuncts of lectures, science and art classes, and other aids to sound education, is as worthy of such help as any institution in the country.

In furtherance of this cause, public dinners, concerts, even bazaars and theatrical performances, have all been tried with varying degrees

of success. A large proportion of the best of the dramatic literature in the Liverpool Public Library was purchased out of a fund raised at a performance given by a local amateur society in the earlier years of the library movement

Though there is much difference of opinion on the subject, I have heard very little solid objection to the system of Subscription Departments in connection with free libraries. If there is no legal difficulty, the objection that it creates a distinction or separation of classes has little or no foundation, and presents no real obstacle. The system has manifest advantages where the funds for book-buying are limited, supplying as it does a regular succession of new works which would otherwise be unobtainable. At the Bolton Library, where the system has existed more than thirty years, I find two-fifths of the books have been transferred from the Subscription Department of the institution.

Closely connected with this question of donations, it is satisfactory to notice the more liberal way in which the Government publications are now being distributed to the various free libraries throughout the country; thanks for which are largely due to the energetic and long continued efforts of Mr. Axon of Manchester, and Mr. Yates of Leeds.

Lastly and fittingly, I would refer to bequests, and urge that all libraries should adopt the practice of appending a form of bequest to their annual reports. This has proved a success with charitable institutions, and I feel sure that, in the case of libraries, an excellent result would be likely to follow.

I am quite aware there is nothing original or novel in any of the suggestions or plans I have named, but the mere placing of them on record may prove useful to some of the younger librarians, and may suggest other and better plans than have yet been thought of. I trust that any new plans found practicable will be communicated to *The Library*, that all may have an opportunity of benefiting by them.

THOMAS FORMBY.



American Books with English Title-Pages.

IN the days of old, when fantastic titles and sub-titles flourished, this paper might have been called "Pitfalls for posterity, or treacherous title-pages taken to task."

Of all the caprices that Father Time is given to, the one most often coming under the notice of the man of books is the exaltation of the humble and meek, and the bringing thereby of small things into great prominence. The printer, or the printing place, the publisher, or the publishing place, of ever so unimportant a book, become curious or famous, and the little book and its mean writer shine with reflected light.

In a few centuries the catalogue of the first free library of some small towns that by then will have become great, will be interesting and curious as a gauge of its former smallness, and a measure of its rise. Therefore the librarian at work, however limited his sphere, should remember that he has the eye of posterity upon him, and, apart from the ever present necessity of doing with his might what his hand finds to do, he should look ahead to the time when his work will be appealed to upon some important controverted point in, say, the 24th century.

Our cataloguing rules require us to transcribe exactly the title-page as far as our limitations of size and cost allow. As regards the imprint, some cataloguers give the publisher's name, more the place of publication, nearly all the date; but, as I desire to show, in a large and increasing number of books the title-page lies to us on all these three points, and its falseness threatens to vitiate the correctness of our catalogues.

All librarians are aware that books printed and published in America have for many years been, and are increasingly imported and presented with title-pages bearing an English firm's name and place on the imprint, but I doubt if the extent to which the practice has grown is realized by many.

The foolish salesman's trick of beginning from about October of one year to date the new books with the next year's date is bad enough. It makes us refer twice for a book when once should be sufficient. But far worse is the pseudo-publishing practised by the leading English firms, who issue books whose typography and paper are manifestly American, but which bear no acknowledgment of the real publisher, and often not even of the printer. Then when the

book has really been published, say, in Boston, in the after part of a year, it takes a little while for the English publisher to realise its importance, send his order, and get his stock sent over in quires, and when the work is put forth as a London publication it bears the imprint of the following year, the result being that a librarian sometimes gets upon his shelves two copies of the same edition of the same book, one with an American publisher's name and address and its true date—this copy having been sent over perhaps for review or presentation—and another with an English publisher's name and address and a different date. From which of these is he to catalogue?

It is strange that in this protest against a sham I should have to arraign Thomas Carlyle as one of the earliest offenders, but in "Correspondence between Carlyle and Emerson" (which, by-the-by, is an American-printed book, but with no printer's name, and bearing on its title-page, "London, Chatto & Windus, Piccadilly, 1883"), a letter from

Carlyle to Emerson, dated June 15, 1838, says respecting the "Miscellanies":—

Vol. I, p. 166.—"I said to Saunders & Ottley, Why not have 200 or 300 of this American edition struck off with 'London, Saunders & Ottley, Conduit St.' on the titlepage, and sent over hither in sheets."

Replying to this, *Emerson to Carlyle*, 6 August, 1838:—

Vol. I, p. 172.—"The title-pages of course are all printed alike, but the publishers assure me that new title-pages can be struck off at a trifling expense with the imprint of Saunders & Ottley."

Carlyle to Emerson, November 15, 1838, ordering 250 copies of "Miscellanies, 4 vols.," in quires:—

Vol. I, p. 194.—"The American title-page, instead of Boston, &c., at the bottom, will require to bear in three lines 'London, James Fraser, 215, Regent St. 1839.' Fraser is anxious that you should not spell him with a z."

Carlyle to Emerson, June 24, 1839:—

Vol. I, p. 249.—"I will print no title-page for the Five Hundred till it do come. 'Published by Fraser & Little,' would, I suppose, be unobjectionable, though Fraser is the most nervous of creatures: but why put *him* in at all, since these five hundred copies are wholly Little's and yours?"

In the last letter Carlyle seems to be coming to the light in this matter.

I do not find that the practice increased very much for some

twenty years from that time. The American publisher's name, coupled with the English, is common, but the importations do not seem to be large. Then the English publisher drops the American name, and now there are few houses which have not helped to swell the list of these "pitfalls for posterity." I do not think that Mr. John Murray adopts this plan, but I find American printed books with the names of Longmans, Macmillan, Chapman & Hall, Elliot Stock, Sonnenschein, Kegan Paul, Chatto & Windus, and Ward & Downey.

The blameworthy practice is not undefended.

The *Publisher's Circular*, June 1, 1888 says:—

"One or two newspapers have lately discovered, curiously enough for the first time, that the custom exists of having English title-pages inserted in imported American works. In reviewing Mr. Markham's book, 'The Fighting Veres,' the *Pall Mall Gazette* says, 'Why the name of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, who really publish the book, should not appear on the title-page is, it must be supposed, one of the mysteries in the art of publishing.'

As to title-pages there is no mystery about the matter at all. The English publisher's imprint is there for the convenience of the English public. The names of publishers are very often guarantees of the quality of books. It would be highly inconvenient if imported editions of foreign works were to retain the original imprint."

In answer to this defence I would say that, the practice being old, it by no means follows that it is only just discovered, because it has not before been protested against. It certainly has very greatly expanded in the last few years. It is not the presence of the English *importer's* name that is objected to, but the absence of the American *publisher's*. It is said that "the English publisher's imprint is there for the convenience of the English public." But when we talk about the English public in relation to books, we are not fettered by narrow insular limits. A *book's* English public is the whole English speaking race throughout the world. In matters of books we no longer regard our American cousins as a foreign nation. It may do for a custom-house tariff, but the bookish man is, in mind, as much at home where Emerson or Longfellow lived and died, as at Alloa or Stratford.

The channel of supply, through an English house, if found useful to the public, will not be neglected if American names *are* on a title-page; and if found no longer useful it will not continue to be used, though an English name be there. The statement that the

names of publishers are guarantees of the quality of books is very true, but are not the names of Houghton & Mifflin, Lippincott, Harper, Scribner, Webster, Ticknor, Appleton, Putman, as good guarantees and as familiar to the bookish man as Longman, Low, Macmillan, Routledge, and others nearer home? In fact the distance between Boston or New York and Paternoster Row in the present day is less than Henrie Tomes over against Graie's Inn Gate in Holbourne, or Humphrey Hooper at the Blacke Beare, in Chancery Lane, was in 1600 from Edinburgh or Glasgow.

The idea of shutting up information as to any other sources of supply than the pseudo-publisher, whose name is on the title-page, is a mistaken one, for the result will be that librarians will have to ignore the title-page altogether and use the printer's name, and the gratuitous advertisement of every catalogue will be lost, while, if the importer had been content to couple his name with that of the real publisher, he would have lost nothing.

But in many of the books published previous to this year I find no printer's name, though in all the latest ones it appears in deference to recent changes in the law.

I do not expect to induce the publishers to alter their practice, but this paper may at least lead librarians to look at the typography and signatures, and for the printer's name more closely, rather than trust to the title-page; and perchance the 24th century reader may be warned to avoid building any baseless theories with regard to the publishers and publishing of the 19th century.

JOSEPH GILBERT.

The Draft Library Bill Prize.

WE are pleased to be able to announce that Sir John Lubbock, Sir James A. Picton and the Worshipful Chancellor Christie, President of the Library Association, have kindly consented to act as judges for the Draft Library Bill Prize. The approval by these gentlemen of the successful draft is a prize in itself of much higher value than that offered by *The Library*, and this fact encourages us to hope that the competition will produce excellent results. Matter rather than form is the desideratum. Useful and practical suggestions will count for more than superior drafting.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Free Libraries in Burma.

THE first number of a third series of that valuable periodical, *Trübner's Record*, has appeared in an improved and extended form, under the editorship of Dr. R. Rost, librarian of the India Office. Among the other interesting contents is a description of the ceremony attending the presentation to the Bernard Free Library, at Rangoon, of a large collection of palm-leaf manuscripts in Pali and Burmese, by two wealthy Burmese gentlemen. The nucleus of the library was formed about fourteen years ago by the purchase of the late Professor Childers's collection of printed books. Since then many and valuable additions have been made to it, so that the library can now boast of possessing a collection of palm-leaf MSS. far superior to any in the world. The ceremony of presentation seems to have been very interesting. Among the speeches was one by the Superintendent of the Shway Dagon Pagoda, delivered in Burmese. He concluded by saying: "You, gentlemen of the Syndicate, are fostering in the people of this country a life of unworldliness by inviting them to a study of their past. These ancient records will promote a higher life and, between the peoples of the West and the East, a kindlier life. They will learn of one another; for knowledge is knowledge everywhere. Our priesthood rejoices that these records will be for ever preserved here, free of access to all of any race and of any creed. We assure you, gentlemen, of our support in your endeavours to establish a national library worthy of the name. Let the language of wisdom—of truth—be taught amongst nations, and evil will wane and goodness increase, lands will grow prosperous and contented, and peace will brood over mankind."

A Visit to the York Gate Library.

Mr. S. W. Silver was good enough to invite some members of the Library Association on Tuesday evening, May 7, to meet, at his house at York Gate, Regent's Park, a party of friends, among whom were Mr. John Murray, Mr. R. N. Cust (hon. secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society), Mr. J. S. O'Halloran (secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute), Mr. Delma Morgan (hon. secretary of the Hakluyt Society), and others. A Paper was read by Mr. E. A. Petherick on "The York Gate Library." Mr. Silver's library includes about 5,000 volumes, and is of a kind perhaps without a rival among private collections in this country for its complete representation of books of geography and travels, more especially relating to our Australian colonies. The first edition of the well-known *Catalogue of the York Gate Library* was privately printed in 1882, a slim octavo. Four years later a second edition was published by Mr. Murray. This is a stately volume of 333 pages, with an admirable index, and reproductions of rare titlepages, maps, and woodcuts. Its usefulness as a work of reference is increased by the titles of memoirs and articles in collections being distributed under the countries and subjects to which they refer. Some of the choicer treasures of the library were exhibited; among these were the rare collections of Hakluyt and

Purchas, many original editions of old travellers, a perfect copy of the Latin De Bry, manuscript diaries of Sir Joseph Banks and of Foster, as well as other relics of Captain Cook's expeditions, together with some of the earliest specimens of printing and engraving relating to or produced in Australia. Mr. Silver kindly intimated that his books might be consulted by scholars pursuing special research. Hearty votes of thanks to Mr. Silver for his courtesy in throwing open his library for the inspection of his guests, and to Mr. Petherick, for his interesting paper, terminated a very pleasant evening.

Library Notes and News.

ABERDEEN.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie is evidently regarded by his countrymen as the unfailing friend of all Library Committees that have an adverse balance. The following letter tells its own story:—"New York, April 12, 1889. To the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. My Dear Sir,—I have your favour of the 18th March, telling me about the proposed new Library building for Aberdeen. You say the sum you require to raise is from £8,000 to £10,000. I shall be very glad indeed to give you the last £1,000 required. With the best wishes for the prosperity of Aberdeen, of which I have most pleasing recollections, I am, very truly yours, ANDREW CARNEGIE."

ALTRINCHAM.—At a meeting of the members of the Altrincham and Bowdon Literary Institute, on 17th April, a proposal was brought forward to convert the institute into a free library and reading-room, and a resolution was carried requesting the directors to take the proposal into full consideration. There is a fund derived from the defunct corporation of the town, yielding £200 a year, which may be applied to the purposes of the proposed free library.

BIRMINGHAM: FREE LIBRARIES.—It is in contemplation to erect three new branch libraries for the districts of Bordesley, Spring Hill, and Duddeston.

BIRMINGHAM: SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL LIBRARY.—The annual meeting of the subscribers was held on 23rd April. The report, which was read by Mr. Sam Timmins, stated that since the last report 327 volumes had been added to the library, which now contained 8,368 volumes. Nearly all these had been acquired since the fire of 1879, when the library contained about 7,000 volumes. The treasurer's report showed that the subscriptions for the year had been £33 12s., and there was an available balance of £115 7s. 8d.

CAMBRIDGE.—The *Graphic* of 13th April contains a description and a sketch of the library of Corpus Christi College.

CANTERBURY.—We reported last month the munificent offer of Dr. Beane to build a free library and institute for Canterbury, but the Town Council has received the offer with such an ill-grace that the doctor has withdrawn it altogether.

CARNARVON.—At the May meeting of the Town Council a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Edward H. Owen for a gift of rare and valuable Welsh books to the free library.

CHELTHENHAM.—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, M.P., on the 24th April, opened a new free library, school of art, and school of science, which which has been erected at a cost of £15,000, and the foundation stone of which was laid on Jubilee day. The town was gay with bunting, and a procession, which included the Mayors of Cheltenham, Gloucester and

Tewkesbury, Mr. Agg-Gardner, M.P., and Sir M. H. Beach, passed through the principal streets. A view of the building is given in the *Illustrated London News* of 4th May.

COLNE, LANCASHIRE.—At a ratepayers' meeting held on 28th April, it was decided that the time was inopportune for the adoption of the Free Libraries Act. A poll was demanded.

DENTON AND HAUGHTON, NEAR MANCHESTER.—In order to raise funds to furnish and complete the free library, a bazaar was opened on April 22nd by Mrs. Russell Scott. The committee required £1000, and nearly the whole of that sum was taken.

DUBLIN.—A new reading-room at the Capel Street Free Library was opened on 23rd April by Alderman Kernan, as *locum tenens* for the Lord Mayor of Dublin. In the "address," which was read by Mr. Charles Dawson, the progress of the library from its opening in 1884 was related, and it was stated that out of the 100,000 issues of books not one volume remained unaccounted for.

EDINBURGH: MECHANICS' LIBRARY.—The membership of this library has for some years been dwindling, and it was proposed at a recent meeting to surrender the books and other property to the Public Library. An attempt is, however, to be made to carry on the institution more efficiently "by opening in the evenings or otherwise."

GALASHIELS.—The public library is to be extended at an expense of £1200, which has been raised by subscription.

HULL.—The amount set aside by Mr. James Reckitt for his Free Library for the eastern division of Hull (see *ante* p. 33) is about £12,000. The foundation stone of the Library was laid on 8th April. The architect is Mr. W. A. Gelder of Hull.

KENDAL.—At a special meeting of the Kendal Town Council on 16th April, it was stated that there were two offers of £500 each, one from an anonymous benefactor, and the other guaranteed by Councillor M'Kay, towards the free library scheme, both of which depended on the Corporation appropriating the old Market Hall, rent free, for the purpose. The voting was even on the question of referring the matter to the vote of the ratepayers, the Mayor (Alderman Baron) giving his casting vote in favour of the motion. It was subsequently carried, however, that the Market Hall be not placed at the disposal of the Committee, and this had the effect of making the previous motion futile. The Mayor said that there was no alternative to refusing the offers, and the question was now settled. He was extremely sorry that the Market Hall was not placed at the disposal of the Committee.

KIRKCALDY.—The *Scotsman* states that a proposal to erect a memorial at Kirkcaldy in honour of Adam Smith, author of the "Wealth of Nations," is taking practical shape. The proposal is to build a large memorial-hall, with accommodation for free library, &c., at a cost of about £50,000. A meeting of magistrates and other promoters has been held, and a committee has been appointed to draw up a report to be submitted to a public meeting of the inhabitants at an early day. The sum seems an incredible one for so small a place as Kirkcaldy.

LEEK.—The Nicholson Institute was handed over to the Local Board twelve months ago, and the cost of maintenance during that period has amounted to £310. Of this sum £147 came from the penny rate, and £163 from the Nicholson family.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The generous donor of Myatt's Fields, as a new public park for South London, has, it is stated, also presented the inhabitants with a free library, which immediately adjoins the park itself.

LONDON.—The *Jewish World* states that the Beth Hamedrash Committee have resolved to purchase the valuable collection of Hebrew books left by the late Dr. Asher, and a recommendation to that effect will be brought before the Council of the United Synagogue. The purchase is made on the recommendation of the Rev. Dr. H. Adler, whose estimate of the value of the books has been sustained by "an eminent Hebraist" well known in the community. The collection will form a notable and useful accession to the Beth Hamedrash library. The late Dr. Asher was deeply interested in the study of *Minhagin* and *Tekanoth*, and was an eager purchaser of books and tracts calculated to assist him in his favorite pursuit. He had, indeed, in contemplation an extensive work dealing with the anthropology of Jewish customs. The work has yet to be written; and it must always be a source of deep regret that one so capable, by his special learning and his unrivalled tact, of performing it, should not have been spared to carry it out.

LONDON: BATTERSEA.—On May 2, Sir John Lubbock, M.P., laid the foundation stone of the Central Library on Lavender Hill. The scheme of the Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for Battersea embraces three buildings—the one on Lavender Hill (a description of which was given in *The Library* for April), a branch establishment at Lammas Hall, already erected, and a branch establishment to be erected in Lurline Gardens. The building on Lavender Hill will cost £6,000, which sum has been borrowed. It is proposed to provide there a lending department with 10,000 volumes, and a reference department with 5,000 volumes. The penny rate yields only £2,600, and having regard to the fact that this sum will be subject for many years to come to considerable deductions for interest and the repayment of capital, the Commissioners appeal to the public for voluntary subscriptions. Among those present at the ceremony were Mr. O. V. Morgan, M.P., Mr. Gilliat, M.P., Mr. Leslie Stephen and Mrs. Ashton Dilke. Having laid the foundation stone, Sir John Lubbock delivered a brief address on the value of literature, in the course of which he said: "I feel it, I assure you, a very great honour to have been asked to lay the first stone of your new library; it is one more mark of kindness and goodwill, in addition to all the others, which I owe to my fellow-citizens in this, the greatest city the world has ever seen. I am very glad to be associated with this occasion, because it is one which I feel sure will be a red-letter day and pleasant memory to the people of Battersea for years and years to come. I do not wish to exaggerate what books and the love of reading may do for us. There will still, alas! be sorrow and sickness and suffering, though even these may be greatly reduced by the wise use of books. But, at any rate, in Battersea no one need ever be dull again. You will have at your doors a constant source of interest and amusement. All the discoveries of science, the history of our country and of the world, the most interesting travels, descriptions of other countries and peoples, the most thrilling adventures, best poems, most interesting stories, the thoughts, the opinions, the advice of the best and wisest of mankind, will here be open to us all. I do not wish to be ungrateful, and certainly not to depreciate London. It has great advantages. But every place—even London—must have its drawbacks, and sometimes one could wish for a little more sun and a little less smoke. Our river, again, is not so bright and clear as could be wished. But books enable us to combine in a great degree the advantages of London with those of the country. They transport us, as if by enchantment, to the fresh air and bright sun, to the murmur of woods and leaves and water, to the ripple of waves upon sand, and enable us, as in some delightful dream, to cast off the cares and troubles of life. When we speak of a public-house now, we

think of a place for the sale of drink. I am glad that ere long there will be in Battersea one public-house where the poorest of your townsmen may have access to the best books without money and without price." The company subsequently adjourned to Crichton Hall to luncheon. Sir John Lubbock presided, and again delivered an interesting address, in which he showed that the establishment of such institutions as public libraries reduced pauperism and crime, and therefore was, from the rate-payers' point of view, a good investment.

LONDON: ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.—The work of pulling down the three buildings in St. Martin's-lane, at the rear of the Garrick Theatre, which at present cover the site for the new Free Library, is going on apace. Mr. Mason, the librarian, said to a reporter of the *Pall Mall Gazette* recently: "All we are waiting for is the permission of the Local Government Board to raise a loan. We shall need £18,000. The vestry will sell us the site for £8,000; the building, which is to be erected from plans by Mr. R. Walker, will cost another £8,000, and we shall spend another £1,000 on furniture. We have about £3,000 in hand, with which we are now buying books. We shall probably start with about 10,000 books all told. The building will consist of four stories—a half-basement, which will contain the lending library; a ground floor room, 60 ft. long by 40 ft. wide, which will be the reading room; the next floor will be devoted to a large library of works of reference, rooms for the private perusal and study of such books, offices, and a board room; and the top floor is to be fitted as a residence for the librarian. We do not expect to get into the building before next summer. The great success of our temporary rooms in Long Acre assures us of success in our permanent library when it shall be completed. Over 70,000 people have used the Long Acre rooms since we opened on January 1. We intend to make a speciality of the reading-room, which is sure to be largely used. Also, we expect to have our reference library largely used."

MANCHESTER: GOETHE SOCIETY.—This Society has added to its library the collection of Goethe books brought together by Mr. Franz Thimm, of Brook Street, London. It comprises about 300 works. With the volumes already in its possession the Society boasts of possessing the most valuable Goethe library in England.

MANCHESTER: OWENS COLLEGE.—The library now contains 45,670 volumes. Three additional rooms (lately occupied by the Natural History Department) have been shelved and furnished, and an improved classified arrangement of the books has been made in them on the principle of departmental libraries.

NELSON: LANCASHIRE.—The Free Libraries Acts have been adopted by 1449 votes to 959.

NOTTINGHAM.—The *Nottingham Daily Express* of May 8th contains a long description of the Nottingham Free Libraries, which consist of a central library and ten branches. An eleventh branch is in course of preparation. The central library is still closed on account of the dangerous condition of the building.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Reading Free Public Library, Catalogue of the Books in the Juvenile Library, St. Lawrence's Churchyard. Second Edition, 1889. pp. 35. (Price 1½d.)

A catalogue of 3,150 volumes, arranged under author's names only

in classes. To some of the entries in classes A and B are appended short notes, and the books deemed suitable for younger children are marked with a X.

Liverpool. Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library, &c. 1889. pp. 28.

In the Reference Library the issues have fallen off about 15 per cent. during the year; the issue of prose fiction has diminished from 882 per diem to 698, or 20 per cent. This indicates a greater proportionate demand for a higher class of literature. More shelf-room is wanted. Nine hundred and forty-three drawings illustrative of the progress of the city, collected by the late Alderman Bennett, were bought for £450. Number of vols. issued, 526,346; number of vols., 93,183, of which 2,108 were added during the year.

The issues from the Liverpool Lending Libraries have gone up from 405,271 to 427,532 vols. During the last two years only nine vols. are reported lost or missing. Number of vols. in North Branch, 23,807; in South Branch, 23,476; forming a total of 47,283, as compared with 46,709 of last year. The five branch evening reading-rooms report a total attendance of 114,777 visitors. The twenty-third course of free popular lectures was delivered during January and March to as many as 47,774 persons, averaging 1,194 per lecture. At the autumn series, for which a charge was made, 8,558 were present, an average of 570 per lecture. No financial statement of the cost of the libraries is supplied.

Bootle-cum-Linacre. Second General Report of the Free Library and Museum Committee for the year ending March 25, 1889. pp. 21.

During the year 31,516 works were issued for home reading, and 10,993, of which 6,117 are prose fiction, were issued for "reference," being a total of 42,509, of which prose fiction forms 75·3 per cent. The number of visits to the reading room amounted to 187,000. In the Lending Library are 4,206 vols., and in the Reference 1,418, forming a total of 5,624, showing an increase of 1,169 vols. No book issued for home reading has been lost. The rd. rate realised £1,440; total receipts, £1,468 11s. 9d. Ten lectures have been given in the Museum, and twelve in connection with the Library.

Glasgow. Report of the Mitchell Library. Glasgow, 1888. pp. 56.

The committee deplore the bad housing of their library of more than 80,000 vols., and point out that the Town Council, having accepted the Mitchell bequest and the proceeds of the Moir fund, ought to provide a permanent building worthy of the city and the library. The librarian states that, owing to limited space and inefficient ventilation, the attendance at the library has for three years in succession perceptibly decreased. The issues in 1888 being 359,884, or 15 per cent. less than in the immediately preceding year, and 23 per cent. less than in 1885.

Borough of Blackburn. Report of the Blackburn Free Public Library and Museum. February, 1889. pp. 16.

The issues from the two departments, of 33,522 vols., numbered 85,763 vols. against 70,733 vols. in 1887-88. There were 520 new members enrolled; and 1,039 vols. were acquired during the year. The attendances in the museum numbered 61,050.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Library of Cornell University. Catalogue of the Historical Library of Andrew Dickson White, first President of Cornell University. I. The Protestant Reformation and its forerunners. Ithaca, N.Y. : 1889, 4to.

An author-catalogue, with subject entries under persons and places. It describes the first part of a valuable historical library presented to Cornell University by the Hon. Andrew Dickson White, LL.D., late President and Professor of History. The titles of all books printed before 1600 are given in full, from both titlepage and colophon, with indication of line-headings. The size-notation of the A.L.A. is used. Original editions are well represented; the collection of pieces by Luther and his contemporaries is very extensive. The descriptions are drawn up with thoroughness and accuracy, and much useful bibliographical information is given in the notes.

Papiers et filigranes des archives de Gênes, 1154 à 1700, par C. M. Briquet, avec 593 dessins autographiés. Genève: H. Georg, 1888. 1a. 8vo.

M. Briquet has already published several essays on paper and water marks, a subject he has made peculiarly his own. The present important work, one of the most valuable of the kind ever produced, is a *tirage à part* from the *Atti della Società Ligure di Storia Patria*, t. xix., fasc. ii. The drawings of the water marks are carefully classified and are accompanied with descriptive notes.

Inventaire des livres formant la Bibliothèque de Bénédict Spinoza, publié d'après un document inédit, avec des notes biographiques et bibliographiques et une Introduction par A. J. Servaas van Rooijen, notes de la main de M. le Dr. David Kaufmann. La Haye: M. Nijhoff, 1889. 4to.

A reprint of the brief inventory of the 160 books left by Spinoza, with full descriptions (not always quite accurate) added by the editor. A re-publication of the rare French translation of the life of Spinoza by Colerus is included.

Dr. David Murray, a member of the Library Association, will shortly publish with Mr. David Robertson, of Glasgow, an interesting work on the connexion of the famous printer-brothers Foulis with the fine arts in Scotland. The book will be entitled *An account of the Foulis Academy of the Fine Arts, and of the progress of Literature, Art and Science in Glasgow*, and will be illustrated with views of Glasgow and its neighbourhood from prints engraved at the Academy.

There is a curious error in the article on "The Times" in the *Universal Review*, for May 15, where a reference is made to "Captain Sterling, of whom a biography, by Carlyle, appeared in 1851." Of course Carlyle's famous biography had for its subject John Sterling, the son of the leader-writer in the Thunderer.

The *Catalogue of MSS. on vellum, chiefly from the famous Hamilton Collection, and till lately in the possession of the Royal Museum of Berlin*,

sold by Messrs. Sotheby, on May 23, should be carefully preserved. The descriptions of the MSS. are unusually full, and the catalogue is enriched with many plates and facsimiles.

The April number of the *Library Journal* contains an article by Mr. Melvil Dewey, on "Civil Service examinations for New York State Library," with a formidable list of no less than 200 questions, chiefly of a technical character, and having special relation to Mr. Dewey's teaching and methods.

A "Fifth list of the publications of Harvard University and its officers, 1887-88," has been issued in the *Bibliographical Contributions*, No. 33.

Correspondence.

THE TURN-OVER OF LIBRARIES.

Some of the readers of *The Library* for March may possibly have thought that the figures I gave at p. 119 had not much *practical* interest for English librarians. It may, therefore, prove useful if I compare with Boston one or two libraries on this side. Noting at the outset that my object is not to contrast the magnitude of their respective turn-over, but only the *direction* in which changes are taking place.

Very likely others besides myself have noticed that, in the issues of some of the principal establishments, the "Central" or "Reference Department" has shown more steadiness than the Lending, *e.g.* Leeds. I presume this is chiefly owing to works in three volumes being less frequently circulated. (Perhaps some of the readers of *The Library* could tell us if, indeed, any novels in this form are still issued at Liverpool, Birmingham, or Manchester). Another cause would be, I take it, the gradual change taking place in the character of the libraries affected: for at Birmingham and Liverpool the total collections are somewhat rapidly assuming more and more the aspect of Reference Libraries. This is also the case at Plymouth.

However this may be, I have this time taken the Lending Issues of Birmingham, Boston and Liverpool, and calculated the turn-overs from 1878-1887. I am not altogether satisfied that I have overcome the attendant difficulties of bringing into line figures for even this limited number. But on that point I should be glad to have the advantage of readers' criticisms. For similar work it would be an immense help if the various institutions, say in this country only, could agree on some common minimum of statistics. For my own part I cannot see the use of giving the monthly variations in the circulation of each branch, as is done for Boston and other places.

In the appended tables I have put the maximum of each town's turn-over equal to 100. It will thus be seen that, while that for Birmingham has shown of late years a slightly retrograde tendency (for 1866 the Birmingham figure was 17.2), Boston has been rapidly decreasing, and Liverpool rapidly increasing.

I do not know that I quite understand the situation of this latter place. But the rise in the turn-over may be partly caused by the comparatively slow growth of the Lending Libraries. When the 35th Report ('88) p. 3, speaks of diminished "support" I presume financial support only is

intended. This state of things, if continued, must of course tell upon the circulation, as no doubt there is an intimate connection between that point and the important subject of library finance and rating powers. Looking at the situation generally, I cannot but think that Mr. Pacy (*Library*, April, p. 135) is quite right in stating the penny rate to be for the present the *maximum*. I would add, *practical maximum*.

	TURN-OVER.			MAXIMUM OF 10 YEARS = 100.		
	Birming- ham.	Boston.	Liverpool.	Birming- ham.	Boston.	Liverpool.
1878.....	8·8	6·6	10·3	86·8	100·	63·7
1879.....	7·9	6·2	12·1	78·7	93·5	75·1
1880.....	10·1	5·8	13·3	100·	87·5	82·8
1881.....	8·9	5·1	11·7	88·5	77·8	72·3
1882.....	8·1	4·7	11·3	80·1	71·7	70·4
1883.....	8·4	4·6	10·3	83·6	69·7	50·7
1884.....	8·8	4·5	13·4	86·7	68·5	83·
1885.....	8·6	4·5	14·2	85·7	67·4	88·
1886.....	8·4	3·9	14·8	82·7	58·9	91·6
1887.....	8·8	3·7	16·1	87·	55·9	100·

In connection with Boston, which, if I understand aright, stood some years ago the foremost of Free Public Libraries in the world, there were some interesting remarks in *The Nation*, vol. XXV, p. 106 (1877). Mr. Cutter then spoke of "the change slowly creeping over the character of" Boston.

OWEN ROE.

Books Wanted.

Fortnightly Review, vol. 2 and 13, *old series*.

Gentleman's Magazine, 1780; 1783, pt. 2; and 1784, pt. 2.

Zincke. A Month in Switzerland.

T. E. WOODROW,
London Library, St. James's Square, S.W.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—ANNUAL MEETING.

Preliminary Announcement.

The Annual Meeting for 1889 will be held in London, in the Hall of Gray's Inn, which the Masters of the Bench have generously placed at the disposal of the Council. The exact date is not yet fixed, but will probably fall in the second week in September. Offers of papers must be received not later than July 1st, and the manuscripts not later than July 15th. It is hoped that some good practical papers, likely to lead to useful discussions, will be sent in.



The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

The last Monthly Meeting was held at Gray's Inn, on Monday, May 13th, at 7.30 p.m., Mr. W. Lane-Joynt, D.L., of Dublin, in the chair.

It was announced that Mr. Bernard Kettle, of the Guildhall Library, had joined the Association. Mr. W. Swan Sonnenschein was proposed by Mr. E. A. Petherick and seconded by Mr. E. C. Thomas for election as a member.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright, of Plymouth, on behalf of a large number of members who had attended the Glasgow meeting, asked the Chairman to present to Mr. F. T. Barrett and Mr. Thomas Mason two handsome albums containing photographs of members, and intended as a recognition of the services of these gentlemen as local hon. secretaries at the Glasgow meeting. Mr. Lane-Joynt made the presentation with characteristic eloquence, and expressed his regret that Mr. Barrett had not been able to attend. Mr. Mason thanked the subscribers, and Mr. Wright read a letter from Mr. Barrett regretting his enforced absence and expressing his acknowledgments.

Mr. E. C. Thomas read a Paper on "Free Public Libraries for London." A discussion followed, and votes of thanks to the writer of the Paper and to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

The next MONTHLY MEETING will be held, by invitation of the Commissioners, at the Free Public Library, Wandsworth, on MONDAY, JUNE 10th, at 7.30 p.m. Paper: "A Political Club Library," by Mr. Arthur Wollaston Hutton.

The Treasurer will be much obliged if newly elected members will send to him their entrance-fee and subscription. He also hopes that members in arrear may not delay payment of their overdue subscriptions.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

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The Library.

On Paper and Paper-marks.

THE history of the invention of paper has yet to be written, especially for English readers. We have a few notices here and there concerning specimens of early paper, and the locality of 15th or even 14th century European paper mills is known; but the whole subject has been neglected, and we must look to France and especially Germany for trustworthy information.

Dr. Joseph Karabacek, of Vienna, has lately published (1887) an essay upon *Das arabische Papier*, as well as upon *Neue Quellen zur Papiergeschichte*, and Dr. Julius Wiesner has issued *Die mikroskopische Untersuchung des Papiers* (1887). In France, too, M. C. M. Briquet has issued some important works upon the same subjects, the conclusions in which, so far as the historical part is concerned, are embodied in the following remarks:—

The essays of Dr. Karabacek, which appeared originally in *Mittheilungen aus der Sammlung der Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer*, are founded upon a careful examination of documents discovered some years ago in Egypt, and known as the El-Faijûm find, the whole of which was secured for the library of the Archduke Régnier. The collection contains in all 12,500 documents on paper, being dissertations and letters concerning the administration of the district, receipts, lists of taxes, &c. The language of all is either Arabic or Coptic, and the dates, where any, are of course in the Hegira æra, which M. Briquet has translated into the corresponding years of the Christian æra. Many of the more ancient are dateless, but can with tolerable certainty be dated *ante* A.D. 800; 24 are dated earlier than 900; 77 between 913 and 1009, and so on up to A.D. 1397, which is the latest document in the collection. Some of the pieces specially treat of the manufacture and sale of Egyptian papyrus and Arabic paper, yielding us strong evidence that the latter gradually superseded the former between the years 800 and 1000, after which papyrus is no more used.

So far as Paper is concerned Mr. Karabacek's researches entirely

disprove the general idea that cotton then or ever was used as raw material in paper mills. The positive origin of the manufacture is still to some extent obscure, although it is certain that the Arabs got it from the Chinese, and that the Chinese never used cotton for the very good reason that it was unknown to them. There is not a single specimen of cotton paper in the Archduke Régnier's collection; microscopic examination which shows a plain difference between the two fibres proves this beyond a doubt. The material used was hemp and linen. Paper was introduced to Samarcand about the year 750. Thence the manufacture migrated to Bagdad, and other eastern cities, and a Persian traveller in the 11th century expresses his surprise at the beautiful paper in which the merchants of Cairo were accustomed to wrap their goods. There was a large market for paper at Damascus long before 1327, at which date it is specially noted; it flourished also at Tiberias—the old Galilean city, at Tripoli about 1040, at Hamâ (the Hamath of the Bible) and, lastly, at Hiérapolis.

The manufacture of paper existed in Africa at the end of the 12th century, at which period no less than 400 paper-moulds were in use. In Spain also paper was made in the 12th century when the principal manufactory was at Xativa, now St. Felipe, in the province of Valentia. The library of Leipzig possesses a magnificent copy of the Koran, written on large sheets of paper in the year 1306.

No mention is made of cotton in any of the early accounts of Arab paper-making: whence then came the terms "*Charta bombycis*" "*bombacis*," &c. used in the middle ages? There is really nothing to show that these terms referred to the substance of which the paper was made; probably it designated the appearance which was called "*bombycis*" on account of its cottony appearance. This explanation is not very satisfactory, but the fact remains—no old paper made of cotton is known to exist.

In many old catalogues of manuscript collections the terms "*bombycina*," "*carta bombacina*," or something similar, are used. The compilers had no other reason for the use of these terms than a certain cottony appearance, which Dr. Weisner attributes to the "*sizing*," or the method of manufacture, and not to the quality of the fibre. In all these cases microscopic examination disproves the use of cotton. In the British Museum there is no mention of the material upon which the MSS. are written in the Cotton Collection. Casley speaks of cotton paper in his preface, but does not particularize. The Harleian has "*charta bombycina*" frequently. The Sloane has no particulars. The early catalogues of Eastern MSS. mention numerous "*bombicin*" MSS., but the late editions use only

the word "paper." There seems no doubt, however, that there is really no paper made of cotton in the British Museum or elsewhere.

Among the most interesting of the MSS. in the Archduke Régnier's collection are four which treat of the fabrication of paper: their date is early in the 13th century. They give directions as to the preparation of hemp and how it should be macerated between the stones of a windmill so as to produce an even pulp. When of the proper consistence the "form," or what is now called the "mould," which appears to have been without any "deckle," was dipped into the pulp, and, when the proper quantity of paste was spread over it, it was taken out and dried and sized with starch made from wheat. Sometimes it was polished by rubbing with a smooth hard muller, and sometimes, when meant for illuminations, a kind of resin was rubbed in. It was then fit for the market.

PAPER-MARKS.

The use of watermarks in paper, unlike the manufacture of paper itself, originated in the West—the Eastern paper being all without any marks. Several interesting works upon their early use in Europe have appeared.¹

There is some truth in the observation that the comparative civilization of any nation may be tested by its Paper. The Arabs, eight or nine centuries ago, made a coarse rough paper. The fabric greatly improved when the Western nations made it in the thirteenth and following centuries. The fifteenth century paper is strong and even in texture; but, with no polish about it. From the time of "John Tate the younger," who made "paper thinne" for W. de Worde, there has been constant improvement, until now we have a choice of the daintiest paper possible to conceive. And yet, the principle upon which paper is made has remained unchanged throughout the ages. All paper, until Fourdrinier introduced machinery and an endless web, was made from a mould. A paper-mould is a very fine wire sieve, about a fourth longer from side to side than it is from top to bottom, not unlike a common cinder-sifter. When this mould is dipped into a vat of paper-pulp, and a small portion of the liquid paper taken up on its surface, the workman by a skilful shake equalizes the spread of the pulp, and the

¹ *Etude sur les filigranes des Papiers employés en France aux xiv. & xv. siècles*, par Etienne Midoux & Aug. Mattou, 8vo, Paris, 1868; *Recherches sur les premiers Papiers employés en Occident et en Orient du x^e au xiv^e Siècle*. Par C. M. Briquet, 8vo, Paris, 1886; and *Papiers et Filigranes des Archives de Gènes*, 1154-1700. Par C. M. Briquet, 8vo, 1888. This work brings the whole subject up to date.

water escaping through the meshes leaves a wet film of paper-fibre on the mould. This when dried is blotting paper; but when sized and pressed becomes writing-paper. The mould has stout wires called "chain-wires," fastened securely at short distances, about one inch apart, and fastened to these are fine thread-like wires, just close enough to let water through easily, but not wide enough to allow the fibre of the liquid paper pulp to pass. If we hold up to the light any sheet of old paper—and in all these remarks I restrict myself to books printed before 1750—we shall see what are called the "laid lines" of the paper; these are the numerous white lines close together. At right angles with these are the bolder "chain lines," and on one side is the watermark—a unicorn, a jug, a bull's head, a fool's cap, or something else. This as well as the wire-marks appear translucent because the wires are slightly raised on the face of the mould, therefore the paper pulp is a little thinner just in those parts. Sometimes when the watermark is very small it is difficult to trace it, especially when both sides are printed; and sometimes, but very rarely, there is no appearance of any watermark throughout the book. In such cases the chain-lines and the laid-lines are equally good guides. Why the watermark has always been so called is difficult to say, for the laid-lines and the chain-lines are just as much water-marks, all being due to the wires, which rise somewhat higher than the fine wires and make the paper-pulp a little thinner just there, and consequently more transparent. The watermarks were originally used as trade-marks, by which to recognise the produce of particular mills; but in course of time developed into size-marks, so that the smallest size of paper, which had a jug for its water-mark, was known for centuries as "pot;" that bearing a cap and bells was called "foolscap;" while the hunter's horn caused that size of paper, from its similarity to a post-horn, to be called "post."

Now here notice that in all papers, when you hold the sheet to the light in its natural position, you have the chain-lines running down from top to bottom, the laid-lines across, and you have the watermark so placed that, when the sheet is folded in half, it appears about the centre of the right-hand half. This is a fixed rule in all old papers, and from it we may deduce:—

LAW 1. In any old book, if the chain-lines run down, and the watermark is found about the centre of the page, that book must be folio.

There is no getting out of this; it is true of all books in all times up to about 1750, when wove paper and the absence of watermarks came in. Of course it applies to all hand-made laid papers up to the present time, but not to machine-made papers. Perhaps the simplest

way for readers who have no means of folding a sheet for themselves is to take a sheet of common note paper, open it, and draw a few lines from top to bottom to represent chain-lines, and then to make any figure they like to represent the watermark about the centre of the right-hand half. This should be done on both sides, and then the accuracy of these remarks can be proved experimentally.

Having got a test for folios, let us now take our sheet or our note paper and fold it in half again; that is quarto, and the chain-lines are now across the page, and the watermark (according to its size) runs into, and often through, the back of the sheet. Therefore—

LAW 2. *If the chain-marks are across, and the watermark is found in the middle of the back of a book, that book must be quarto.*

In a similar way, by folding in half again we make the size called octavo, and we find here the chain-lines down and the watermark at the top edge.

LAW 3. *If the chain-marks are down, and the watermark is found at the top edge of a book, that book must be 8vo.*

Here then, for the large class of books between octavo and folio, is a true, because a natural, test. It is good for books of all nationalities, and is the *only* certain guide for the bibliographer as to size.

An objection may perhaps be made, that by this plan a contradiction in nomenclature is sure to arise; and that the quarto of a large sheet, like that upon which the Mazarine Bible is printed, will stand higher on the shelf than a Shakspeare folio. What then? the large quarto *is* larger in that case than the small folio, and when this is once understood all objections must cease. And then see the great advantage of having a fixed rule that has no exceptions, a true nomenclature, independent of the caprice or haphazard fancy of an erratic printer, and based on a fundamental law in the science of books. In fact, we have no more the right to ignore than we have the power to alter such laws; and it is because these laws have been unrecognized that we find some of our greatest bibliographers quite wrong as to sizes, cataloguing folios as quartos and quartos as folios. Before me lies "Aretinus de Bello Gallico," by Jenson of Venice, 1471; all the authorities call it a folio, because of its fine size, but the chain-lines run across the page, it *must* be a quarto. No bibliographer has a better name for accuracy than the celebrated Van Praet, yet he errs in the size of a book printed by his hero, Colard Mansion; and because the unique volume, entitled "Purgatorie des mauvais Maris," has been greatly cropped he catalogues it as a small quarto. Now all the other books of this printer are folio, and the down chain-lines and the watermark near the fore-edge prove

this to be folio also, the watermark appearing out of place in consequence of so much paper having been ploughed off one side. No old book should be catalogued as to size by the eye; but always by the watermarks. This would prevent much confusion, for if a book is entered here as a quarto because cropped, and there as a folio because uncut, it makes two editions out of one. Truly the natural system is the only correct way.

Watermarks are, on the other hand, a snare, when we look to them for any positive evidence as to the date or nationality of a book. Papers were exported to neighbouring countries from Holland, France and Italy, and paper was often stored, as indeed it is occasionally in these days, for many years before using; so that, from this point of view, paper-marks are of little use.

Watermarks may be very usefully employed to test the completeness of an old volume. At the beginning of this century, as well as in the last, binders had an innate horror of blank leaves, and so numerous blanks at the beginning, middle and end, of books disappeared as eyesores, the consequence being uncertainty; or, say a leaf has been destroyed in the middle of a book where no signatures are left; the text perchance may read on without much more incoherence than may be often met with. How can we test it? Hold each leaf up to the light and mark down on paper the sequence of the watermarks thus: two strokes standing for a watermark leaf and 0 for no mark.

|| 0 0 0 0 || 0 0 0 0 || || || 0 0 || 0 0 || 0 0 || 0 0 ||

No information seems at first sight to be deducible from this array. But study them a bit, while remembering that every sheet has a watermark one side and none the other. If the binder used five sheets to a section, let us see how that would act. The small figures showing the position of the sheets, in the section 1 is the outer and 5 the centre sheet.

|| 0 0 0 0 || 0 0 0
1 2 3 4 5 5 4 3 2 1

The outer sheet, 1, is all right, with one side || and the other 0; so is the second; but the third shows two 0, and the fourth two ||; and the fifth is wrong also. That won't do. Now try sections of four sheets, and here we at once notice that, after the first seven leaves, come four leaves without mark, followed by four leaves with mark. This leads us to think that these leaves represent a complete quaternion, and that therefore the first seven leaves require a blank at the commencement to complete that quaternion. Let us add the blank

leaf and try again. We have now for the first section, or signature *a*—

0 || 0 || 0 || 0 ||
1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

and for the second signature—

0 0 0 0 || || ||
1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

and for the third—

0 || 0 || 0 || 0 ||
1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

and so on to the end of the volume. Our first four sections now resolve themselves thus:—

Sig. *a*.
|| 0 || 0 || 0 ||
1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

Sig. *b*.
0 0 0 0 || || ||
1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

Sig. *c*.
0 || 0 || 0 || 0 ||
1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

Sig. *d*.
0 0 || 0 || ||
1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

Here a leaf, the second half of *d* 3 is plainly wanting, and whenever a discrepancy occurs we may be sure that either a leaf is wanting, or that the number of sheets in a section has been altered to suit the end or beginning of a chapter or book. This method of checking the completeness or otherwise of a volume, although of the greatest assistance to the bibliographer, must not be taken with the certitude laid down for ascertaining size—that is a fixed law; but the absence of the central sheet or the middle two leaves of a section would not be proved by this plan, although the change of design would excite suspicion. Then again, where the printer was of a saving disposition, he used single half-sheets, cut from spoilt sheets as the work advanced, and these would of course be subject to no such rules as advanced above.

If the binding will allow, a very good way is to stretch open the back and look for the binder's thread running down the back, when this is seen it shows for certain the middle sheet of a signature which renders the collation easier. A long strip of parchment often seen in the back of old books, looking oft as if two leaves had been cut out, was used to prevent the thread cutting the paper, and this is also a direct witness that the centre of the section must be there.

The more these rules are followed and developed by the personal observation of students, the more will they be depended upon and found useful in solving bibliographical difficulties.

WILLIAM BLADES.

Wanted, a Catalogue.

IT is not the practice of *The Library* to insert other than original articles, and I am sure that its editor would be very slow to follow the example of some of the bibliographical magazines across the Atlantic, in which English articles are unscrupulously pirated. But it is a far cry from either London or New York to St. Petersburg, and the English-speaking students, who have had any other experience of the Imperial Public Library of that city than that of walking through it at the heels of a guide upon exhibition days, may probably be counted on the fingers of one hand. One of these adventurous few is a Miss Isabel F. Hapgood, whose experiences, as narrated in a long letter to the *New York Nation* of the 21st of last March, are so interesting and amusing, that I venture to call the attention of English librarians to her account of them.

Miss Hapgood is the happy possessor of that acquirement—so rare among Englishmen or Americans—an intimate knowledge of the Russian language, by virtue of which she is able not only to make excellent translations from the works of Tolstoi and Gogol, without the help of a French crib, but also to find a key, may I say, to the hearts of Russian librarians. A few months ago some other adventurous American made complaint to the *Nation* of the vast inferiority of the Berlin Royal Library to the libraries at Boston, and Miss Hapgood, having had her own experiences of Berlin, was thereupon moved to write her very interesting account of the state of affairs at St. Petersburg.

It will probably be a surprise to most English readers to hear that the library there, according to the excellent account of it in the last edition of *Murray's Guide*, contains, in addition to 34,000 manuscripts, over a million printed volumes. Miss Hapgood, it will be observed, states its contents as "a million and a half of books," but it is, perhaps, too much to expect a lady to appreciate the distinction between books and volumes, and even the more moderate total given by "Murray" is sufficiently surprising. It seems, however, that no less than 300,000 volumes were acquired in one batch, a circumstance which probably accounts for much in the after history of the library. These formed the collection of two Counts Zaluski, respectively Bishops of Cracow and of Kief, from whose hands they passed into the possession of the Polish Government. On the capture of Warsaw in 1794 by General Savaroff they were

treated as part of the spoils, and transferred to St. Petersburg, where a library was erected for their reception. To this, in 1852, was added a magnificent reading-room, which, when first opened, was attended by about 20,000 readers in each year. The present wealth and condition of the library I will piratically narrate in a long quotation from Miss Hapgood :—

“There are plenty of books, in fact about twenty miles of shelves and a million and a half of books (not counting MSS.) in the Imperial Public Library. They are so numerous that they have quite got the upper hand of the librarians and the public. The librarians are extremely obliging, but the whole system is so radically defective that individual effort can effect but little. There are 300 to 400 visitors a day, on an average 120,000 a year, and the numbers are increasing so fast that the great reading-room must soon be enlarged again. There are a good many crying wants, but the real shrieking, howling want is a catalogue—and a card catalogue at that. At present there is practically none at all. The method of procedure is as follows :—At the entrance door the soldier who takes your cloak and shoes gives you a sheet of paper, on which he notes the number of your peg. You will not be allowed to reclaim your garment and leave the building unless that paper bears the proper cancelling stamp, to show that you have returned all books. On this paper you write your name and the number of your card. This card, by the way, is issued to you on your personal signature with address, and without an appeal to professors, ministers plenipotentiary, or other potentates. Herein this library decidedly scores a point over Berlin. On your paper the attendant at the desk writes the titles of all your books, after you have got them. After you have got them ! That's the rub. At the top of the grand staircase, outside the reading room, on the landing, stand some desks provided with some catalogues, in divisions such as : Russian, Foreign Literature, Dictionaries, and a few more. As it is necessary to go through the alphabet several times in some of these leaflets, in order to make sure that you have not overlooked your book, the search is sometimes lengthy, and at certain seasons and hours there are more candidates for catalogues than catalogues. If you find your book you write its name, author, date, number (if given), etc., on a small slip of paper, adding your card number and the date. If you do not find it, and know enough to ask for them, you may have another series of combined leaflets, which are issued from the desk on special application. These consist of a couple of yearly lists of acquisitions (foreign), 1856-57, and of half-yearly lists beginning in 1863, and

ending, after some irregularity in issuing, with No. 19, containing the additions for 1882-83. After that date there is a blank.

"When your slips are ready, you pass them in at the proper opening of the desk (for periodicals or books), find a seat near at hand if possible, or lounge about and wait for the books . . . The paper received from the hall porter must be presented when the books are taken; the title of each is carefully noted. A written or stamped receipt is given, in bulk or as each separate volume is returned.

"If the books desired happen to be in the reading-room section, they are delivered promptly. If elsewhere, they can only be had after 3 p.m., or on the following morning, *provided* the application is handed in before 1 o'clock, the ordinary hours being from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If the next day chances to be a Sunday or holiday you cannot have the book, although the library is open from 12 to 3 p.m., but must wait until the first ordinary day. The building is hermetically sealed for a week at the Christmas holidays, about the same time at Easter, if I recollect aright, and for several days at another season, when they are 'taking account of stock.' It is as well not to feel in haste at such seasons: but human nature is contrary, and sometimes one does pine for a book just then."

The rest of Miss Hapgood's letter is taken up with an amusing record of her victorious march from one triumph to another. First a vehement demonstration to the assistant-librarians, of how much better things were done in America, caused a volume, for which she had been previously assured that she must wait six and thirty hours, to be softly laid at her side in less than ten minutes. Then the director was won to her side; then the military officer at the head of the whole building; until at last an edict was issued that Miss Hapgood was to be allowed to "do as she pleased," a privilege which even extended to taking books, entered for her in the librarian's name, to her own house. No wonder that under these circumstances she exonerates the officials from all personal blame, reserving her denunciations for the system, or want of system, which indeed, in so far as it is responsible for having a library of a million volumes with only a few make-shift class-catalogues, is clearly indefensible.

In point of administration, then, it cannot be denied that the Imperial Library of St. Petersburg compares very unfavourably with the Public Library of Boston, U.S.A., with which Miss Hapgood frequently and unkindly contrasts it. In some minor respects, however, it may be lawful to suggest that Miss Hapgood occasionally forgets that the aims and needs of a national and of a local library

are not necessarily the same. Thus, the Boston Public Library publishes Finding-Lists of French Prose Fiction; the Imperial Library allows no novels to be read within its walls. At Boston, every current periodical is doubtless obtainable within four and twenty hours of publication; at St. Petersburg the latest numbers available are usually two months old. The Boston Public Library is undoubtedly right, but it does not follow that St. Petersburg is wrong, and, considering that the number of daily readers is already too great for the capacity of the reading room, the probability is rather the other way. But a catalogue of authors is evidently, as Miss Hapgood puts it, a "real shrieking, howling want," and any reader of this magazine possessed of a competent knowledge of Russian, and an ardour for cataloguing, may evidently find his life-mission at St. Petersburg.

ALFRED W. POLLARD.



A Book-binder's Bill, 1797.

IT is possible that the following transcript of a Bookbinder's bill in 1797 (the original of which is pasted in the British Museum copy of Heydon's *Elhavarevna, or the English Physitians Tutor*, 1665,) may be read with interest by some modern librarians and others who have opportunities of comparing the cost of book-binding now with that of a hundred years ago.

ROGER PAYNE'S BILL.

1797 July 3d.

Elhavare- vna And Psonthon- phanchia by Heydon London MDCLXV.	}	A great deal of Lettering done in the most correct Manner, The Lettering Compassed & Impressions made. 1st plain & afterwards in Gold the Gold laid on Double to make the Letters full of Gold, without cracks or flaws. The Outsides Finished in the most elegant Scientific Taste Rosie-Crucian ; The Trefoil pointed Cross Roses & s s'—& The Druid Acorns. The Insides Finished in the most Magnificent Manner with Flowery and Foliage Work of small Tools studded with Roses & Gold Studds. exceeding neat and Strong Boards. Sew'd with Silk and the Back lined with Russia Leather under the Russia Cover, to make smooth the Back and level the notches of the Sawing in of the Bands in the first sewing of ye 1st Binding. The greatest care hath been taken to preserve ye Margins to the full size. Bound in the very Best Manner . . o : 14 : o Washing taking ye Writing Ink out, & Sizing the whole Book . o : 5 : o The Book was saw'd into the print at The Back Margins & the Book being very badly folded, a great Number of Margins at the Back, I was obliged to putt new margins on, or the Book would not have been read-able at ye Back. It took me 5 Days and a half Day and upwards in Time Cleaning Mending the Margins & Letters & ye plates mended at 3s : 6d per Day . . o : 19 : o
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£1 : 18 : o



The Burning of the Books.

AN OWRE TRUE TALE.

START not, dear Reader, in alarm at the above words, fearing lest thou shouldst be asked to toil through a learned discourse, wherein shall be propounded some new theory touching the great Library of Alexandria—whether or no it perished in the flames. Rather let us be content to yield simple credence to the Caliph's simple words,—“If these writings of the Greeks agree with the book of God, they are useless and need not be preserved; if they disagree, they are pernicious and ought to be destroyed,” and believe the fate of the luckless manuscripts was in accord therewith. Nor do I propose to indulge in any vain speculation on the nature of those mysterious books, the smoke of whose burning clouded the blue skies of Ephesus at the bidding of St. Paul, nor on the number of Valdarfer Decameroners which fell victims to the zeal of a later reformer, when Savonarola illumined the great square of Florence with a holocaust of those volumes for which the bibliomaniac of to-day would give well-nigh their weight in gold. I shall not ask thee, Reader, to utter thy malediction on the good St. Louis for his burning, by whole cart-loads, the Talmuds of the poor Jews of Paris, albeit he deserveth purgatorial fires for so foul an act. Nor shall I bid thee mourn afresh over that fell deed, which robbed the world of the priceless treasures of La Mancha's Knight, most lamentable of all such lamentable woes. Thine own library, say'st thou, contains copies of the authors whose works were then committed to the flames? Nay, but what wouldst thou not give to possess but one which had been Quijote's own?

It is now many years ago since, in company with two friends whom, from their respective callings, I will here designate as the Padre and the Doctor, I started for a brief holiday on the Continent. Though not presuming to rival the Benedictine in learning, we yet determined humbly to follow in the footsteps of Dom Mabillon and bend our way to Italy, trusting that, like him, we might there be rejoiced by the sight of many things dear to the bookish traveller, and perchance made happy by the acquisition of some few volumes to add to our respective collections—collections which, fortunately, varied in accordance with our varying tastes, so that we had no cause to fear any falling-out by the way, in consequence of contesting the possession of some treasure equally coveted by all.

Our time being short and our hearts set on Italy, we scarce tarried even for a hasty glimpse of some of the great libraries of Paris, but pushed on south-wards with all speed. Before, however, proceeding to Milan and other towns, we spent a week among the Lakes of Northern Italy. There we chanced to stop at a small place on Maggiore, on the side just opposite a villa belonging to some friends, and I remember, as though it were but yesterday, how we took boat one glorious morning (it was in Italy, and after a chilly spring in England the hot southern sun was, to me at least, delightful) and crossed the lake to spend a long day with them. Mindful, as ever, of the chief object of our journey, we soon asked our host if any of his neighbours chanced to be of tastes similar to our own, and to have anything deserving of inspection.

"Had you come a few weeks sooner," replied he, "I could have introduced you to two friends of mine, who each possessed a library of some size, and one of whom was as attached to his books as you could desire. The larger collection belonged to an old gentleman whose family had lived here for generations, and doubtless it contained a good many volumes you would have liked to see; the smaller, but I fancy quite as valuable, one had been gradually accumulated by a priest in our neighbouring town, a man of rare merit though by choice leading a most quiet and retired life."

"But can we not even now call on these worthy gentlemen?" exclaimed the Padre who, at mention of a brother ecclesiastic, albeit of differing creed, pricked up his ears and bethought him of divers goodly tomes of antique theology, and the excitement of an amicable bout of polemics with their owner.

"No," replied our host, "I grieve to say that both have left us; our excellent priest for, I trust, a better world, and our *vieux garçon* for Rome, which, since the delights of Paris are denied her, the young wife he has lately married thinks the only place worth living in."

"And have the books, too, gone?" asked the disappointed Padre.

"Gone from their former homes, but not yet gone altogether from amongst us. I am not a collector of such things myself, nor even much of a reader, or I might perhaps have purchased some; no one else came forward with any offer for them, and they have consequently found a resting-place at a baker's in the little town near by, at which I told you the priest used to live. If you care to see them, we will walk over there when the heat of the day is past before you row back to your hotel."

"Nay," cried I, "let us rather go at once, for I have a huge

longing to inspect these same books, and it seems to me a thousand years till I feast my eyes upon them."

The Doctor and the Padre expressed themselves equally eager to examine these forlorn volumes, which appeared to be cast homeless and friendless on the world, and accordingly we all sallied forth to the baker's. Half-an-hour's walk brought us to his door, and seeing us in company with our host, who seemed a general favourite with all, both rich and poor, the worthy man made us heartily welcome, and speedily introduced us to the remnants of what had once been two libraries of no inconsiderable extent and value. Alas! that I should have to say "the remnants." Here an enemy had been at work more swift to destroy than either moth or worm or damp; more thorough in the havoc he had wrought than "prowling Grangerite" or pilferer of title-pages. Even on that sunny Italian summer day—even at the mouth of that glowing furnace which the baker, miserable wretch, proudly threw open to our view—even there did a cold shudder run through me, when I heard it had been fed with many of those goodly folios and their smaller brethren, whose fellows were piled around, sadly waiting to follow on the same fiery road. Ah! caitiff baker; truly thou didst deserve to be choked by thine own bread, baked by such means as these! A very Inferno was this shop of thine, and for these poor authors it must have borne the doleful warning,

Lasciate ogni speranza voi ch' entrate.

Yet, though much had perished, much still remained, and though of this we could carry away but comparatively little, still we all determined to rescue what we could. The Padre seized upon a whole stack of venerable Fathers and Schoolmen, from which, I recollect, he drew forth in triumph a ponderous edition of St. Thomas of Aquino, which he had long been wishing to add to his library; whilst, like some imprisoned beauty hastening to the arms of the adventurous knight come to release her from durance vile, there fell at his very feet a lovely little illuminated vellum Book of Hours! The Doctor, our man of Science, found nothing, I think, treating of his own peculiar art, but was fortunate enough to unearth a few stray volumes of early botanical and astronomical works, the priest having been, as our friend told us, greatly devoted to such studies. As for me, I left these grave tomes to my more learned companions, and contented myself with sundry volumes of the Italian poets, and early novelists. I should blush to mention the trifling sum these various treasures cost us; but, trifling as it was, the cunning baker, marking

our eagerness, doubtless demanded ten fold that which he had himself paid for his strange fuel.

Our mousings at length over, we returned to our friend's villa well-satisfied with the result, leaving our purchases to be taken down to the boat in readiness for our departure in the evening. A brilliant day was followed by as brilliant a night, and the moon was casting a broad stream of light across the water when we at last set out on our little voyage to the opposite shore of the lake. We found our books all safely on board, and a brave show they made, good St. Thomas Aquinas, "great dumb ox of Sicily," being throned on the very summit of the pile. On we went, and were nearing our destination when a queer-looking little object (surely some imp of darkness hostile to bibliomaniacs) came bobbing up and down in the water towards us, the moonlight seeming to throw a curious clearness and yet indistinctness about it. Then—

Ah, Corydon, Corydon, quæ te dementia cepit?

The Doctor, ever on the look-out for something new and strange, made a sudden grab at it as it passed; long and large of limb as he was, and weighty withal, his sudden lunge, backed by the huge volumes of his equally weighty namesake, proved too much for the equilibrium of our little vessel; another moment, and we were struggling in the water, *Doctor Angelicus* and all!

Fortunately, we were all three able to swim—fortunately, land was not far off, and another boat happened to be passing close by, so beyond a thorough soaking we were none of us any the worse for our mishap. But, alas! not so buoyant were the venerable Schoolman and his fellows. Speedily they sank to rise no more; and all the volumes we rescued from the clutches of the baker now rest beneath Maggiore's wave, saving only the tiny little Venetian *Petrarca* which chanced to be in my pocket at the time, and which now, tattered and stained, lies on the table beside me as I write these lines.

REGINALD S. FABER.



Mr. Quaritch's Manuscripts.

FROM June 4th to 14th, Mr. Quaritch had on exhibition, at his house in Piccadilly, a selection of his rarer MSS. The little catalogues or hand-lists, which served also as tickets of admission, had been distributed not too freely, with the result that visitors seldom numbered more than three or four at a time, and could thus enjoy at their ease the pleasures of an exhibition, of which Mr. Quaritch himself often did the honours. The manuscripts exhibited may be grouped in several classes, of which that of *Liturgies* was on the whole of the greatest importance, at any rate numerically. The most ancient of these was the Huntingfield Psalter, which dates from the year 1170, and is valued by Mr. Quaritch at £800. This belongs to the use of York, while that of Salisbury is represented by two Missals, one dating from 1300, noticeable for the absence of any abbreviations, the other (the Sheldon Missal) 170 years later, and finely illuminated. Of the English Liturgies, however, undoubtedly the most interesting, not indeed for its beauty but for its historical associations, is the *Talbot Prayer Book*. This was a wedding present to Lord Talbot, on his marriage in 1425, and was shaped in the narrow oblong form, which enabled the "pocket volumes" of those days to fit easily into a saddle-bag. That it was Talbot's constant companion is testified, not only by the rubbed condition of some of the leaves, but by the prayers written in his own hand on some blank pages at the end, which show that he had it with him during his three years imprisonment after the battle of Patay in 1429, while four and twenty years later it was picked up on the battle-field of Châtillon, on which he met his death. No such romantic history attached to any of the French Books of Hours, of which Mr. Quaritch had several on exhibition, but it is needless to say that many of these were of the utmost beauty. For beauty, however, the palm must be awarded not to a French but to a Flemish MS., *The Hours of Juana La Loca* (1475), almost every page of which is resplendent with the most wonderful illuminations, mostly of flowers, by Gérard David. For this little volume Mr. Quaritch asks £750, and the price, for Mr. Quaritch, does not seem extravagant. So much for the Liturgies: of the Bibles, the only one that we have space to notice is the wonderful *Golden Gospels of Henry VIII*, a Latin MS. written in gold uncials on purple vellum, probably for Archbishop Wilfrid of York, about the year 680. When Henry VIII was dubbed "Defender of the

Faith," this volume was presented to him, and his arms inscribed on one of the initial leaves. Another manuscript of Anglo-Saxon origin was a copy of *Boethius de Arithmetica*, in Caroline minuscules, of about the year 1000. This, and a Frankish transcript of the *De Amicitia* of Cicero, were the only two representatives of classical literature.

For English history Mr. Quaritch showed a magnificent copy of the *Chronique des Ducs de Normandie*, a fifteenth century Burgundian MS. enriched with numerous miniatures, not always of great historical accuracy, as is shown by the black hair of William Rufus in the scene of his coronation. Two English manuscripts exhaust the list of those which we have space to specially mention, the first a copy of Gower's *Confessio Amantis*, of the year 1395, and therefore containing the compliment to Richard II, which, on the accession of Henry IV, the poet thought fit to omit from his revised edition. More important than this, because unique, is the transcript of the *Towneley Mysteries*, one of the four great cycles of religious dramas which used to be performed on Corpus Christi Day or at Whitsuntide throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Of these four cycles the Towneley Mysteries, which were performed in the neighbourhood of Wakefield, have some claim to be considered the most interesting of all, and it is a pity that the £850, at which Mr. Quaritch values the manuscript (rather an excessive price), places it beyond the reach of any of our great public libraries. The whole exhibition included just 82 manuscripts, valued by their enterprising possessor at no less than £20,000.



New Books.

History of the Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge, commonly known as the Linen Hall Library; chiefly taken from the minutes of the Society, and published in connection with the centenary celebration in 1888. By John Anderson, Hon. Secretary. Belfast: McCaw, Stevenson & Orr, 1888. Imp. 8vo, pp. 128, 11 Illustrations.

With the help of remarks connecting various extracts from the minutes, Mr. Anderson has produced a most interesting record of the hundred years' life of this yet vigorous Society. Although we do not find the objects and aims of the Society stated until four years after its foundation, yet, there is little doubt, that "to form a library, which should remain *for ever* the sole and *undivided* property of the whole Society" was from the commencement the principle which guided the members. How successfully this has been accomplished may be seen by a perusal of the History of the Linen Hall Library. At the present day the members number 836, and possess a library of over 25,000 volumes, including a most important and valuable department devoted to books on the History and Literature of Ireland. There is also a collection of locally printed books illustrating the progress of printing in Belfast. In connection with the last mentioned section, our readers will remember the deep interest the late Mr. Henry Bradshaw took in the "Catalogue of Early Belfast Printed Books," prepared by Mr. Anderson, the editor of the work before us, and published by this Belfast Society. We are glad to learn that the catalogue has produced good fruits, for the editor states that "as a result of the interest created by its publication, the rapidly increasing collection of locally printed books has received special attention." We sincerely join him in expressing a hope that the Linen Hall Library may in course of time become the repository of most, if not all, of the works bearing a Belfast imprint. The illustrations, which include maps of Belfast in 1685, 1757, 1791 and 1888, add considerably to the attractiveness of the volume.

The Bacon Shakspeare Question. By C. Stopes. London: T. G. Johnson, 1888. 8vo, pp. xii, 149.

The authoress of these papers, which are re-printed from the Trade Journal "Wine, Spirit and Beer," has seriously undertaken to defend Shakspeare from the Baconians by a consideration of "the relation these two writers hold to the *views* regarding wine, spirits and beer, expressed in either set of works." The mention of various liquors by the poet and the philosopher are carefully examined and present a curious contrast. This is followed by a chronological account of the external evidence from the writings of contemporary and later writers in favour of Shakspeare. The work concludes with a criticism of the "Thirty-two Reasons for believing that Bacon wrote Shakspeare," advanced by Mrs. Potts, and of Mr. Donnelly's "Great Cryptogram," regarding which Mrs. Stopes states—"I have honestly done my duty and read from beginning to end." There is abundant evidence of careful work in the volume before us, and, if for nothing else than the consensus of authors who mention the great poet or his works, the papers well merited the more permanent form in which the authoress now offers them to Shakspearean scholars.

The Dramatic Works of Edwin Atherstone. Edited by his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Atherstone. London: Elliot Stock, 1888. 8vo, pp. vi, 304.

In a preface, which is most touching in the filial devotion it displays, the editor states that her father's dramas were many times offered to the London theatres, but were never played. We are glad to think that they are now safely in type, and we doubt not that admirers of Edwin Atherstone's "Fall of Nineveh" will turn with interest to his "Philip." No one can read the dreadful scene in which Philip witnesses the poisoning of Theoxana, and that in which he discovers his son Demetrius poisoned by his own instructions, without being moved. The comedy "Love, Poetry, Philosophy and Gout," has considerable merit, but we must confess that farce is not the vein with which Atherstone is connected in our minds.

Antiquarian Jottings relating to Bromley, Hayes, Keston and West Wickham in Kent. By George Clinch, of the Department of Printed Books, British Museum. Printed for the Author, Addiscombe, Surrey, 1889. Sm. 4to, pp. viii, 191.

The handsome volume to which Mr. Clinch has given the modest title "Antiquarian Jottings" is in reality a succinct history of the various parishes comprised within the Kentish district of which it treats. The names are suggestive of objects of interest to the antiquary, and in the work before us the author has carefully described the various churches, monuments, bells, parish registers, &c., with an exactness which renders the book a valuable contribution to English topography. In the inventory of parish goods belonging to Bromley Church in the year 1552, the following books occur:—Item, one bible...Item, one paraphrase of Erasmus...Item, one booke of the homalies, & iij Englishe processioners. In the Hayes inventory we have:—Item, a bible & the paraphrases. In the West Wickham inventory:—Item, a bible of the greatest volume, and a paraphrase of Erasmus. No books are found in the Keston inventory. These lists show how nearly at that date the pre-reformation service-books had disappeared from the parish churches. The work contains a number of illustrations, the best being the views of Bromley and West Wickham Churches.

Jottings.

Librarians will find some amusing reading in the recent issues of *The Croydon Guardian*. It is not to be wondered at that the ire of the parochial patriot should be roused, by the rumour that the Library Committee contemplated the appointment of an outsider as librarian; but that a journalist, whose sources of information are presumably better than those of the typical gentleman who writes under the signature of "Fiat Justitia," should indulge in similar twaddle is scarcely creditable. The Croydon editor's standard of fitness for the post in question would answer for an average library porter, and his high-water mark of literary ability is the reading of advertisements in *The Athenæum*. He gravely informs us that the genius, who finds his literary pabulum on the first page of *The Athenæum*, is worthy a seat on the Croydon Library Committee, but is altogether too good for the work of a librarian. But if the Editor of *The Croydon Guardian* is not over wise, he is very honest and prints a long and trenchant letter from Mr. Pacy, of the Richmond Free Library, who places the question in its true light for the benefit of intelligent Croydonians.

The Chetham Society has asked subscribers to return the lately issued Index Volume, on the ground that "a serious omission has been made by the editor, and therefore the Society will reprint the volume." The omission must indeed be serious that causes the Council to reprint a volume of nearly 500 pages of double column matter.

The author of *Ideala*, is Mrs. McFall.

"Noel Hatton" (the author of *Whom Nature leadeth*) and Mrs. Mona Caird are one and the same person.

Mr. H. Ling Roth and Miss E. Marion Butler announce *An Account of the Aborigines of Tasmania: their manners, customs, wars, hunting, food, morals, language, origin, and general characteristics*. The little that is known of the Tasmanians is so scattered as to be of scant use to the ordinary student, and we have reason to be grateful to the authors of this work for presenting to us in a readable form, a complete account of "the lost race."

The following is copied, word and letter, from an epistle received the other day by a provincial librarian:

DEAR SIR,—Please would you have the kindness, as to search for the Person, who died Intestate in Bermuda, in the year, 1830. but I have onely seen the first letters of his first and second name and they are J. H. pleas would you have the kindness as to inform me wether it is John Harrison or not, for there was an uncle of my Father's that went away from this Country about the year 1823 or 1824. I seem to think that it might be him that we have been wanting to know his wereabouts for some time back, I am a poor man out of work and a family of little Childeran or I should have got an Index of my own. I thought that you might have it, in the Library, I should be most greatly obligue to you, if you could ascertain what was his real name, and if it ever lay in my power to do you a good turn I shall be most happy to do so. from yours a stranger. [R. H. H.]

It is said that, by suspending a piece of perforated zinc above a gas flame, all destructive products will be neutralised.

Mr. Woodward, of the Mason Science College, Birmingham, has discovered that the aniline ink used in stamping books with rubber stamps, can be entirely removed from the paper.

We hope the Competition for the Library Bill Prize will be a good one. As the successful Bill, as amended by the Annual Meeting, will, in all probability, form the basis of the next legislation on the subject, the authorship is worth striving for.

We have received more than one plaintive letter from young librarians, appealing for help in the shape of papers and notes on methods of work. It is strange that our American cousins should have almost a monopoly of this kind of writing. If an American librarian finds it advisable to adopt a new form of catalogue card, discovers a paste or gum better than all others for his purpose, or lights upon a happy solution of a problem in library economics, he straightway writes to the editor of the *Journal*, or the *Notes*, and tells what he knows *pro bono publico*. Why should it be otherwise on this side of the Atlantic? Better, surely, to risk "vain repetitions," and that young librarians should be sure of finding in *The Library* all the latest "tips" as to their work, than that the older librarians should bury their talent in a napkin, and hide from their fellows anything likely to make for better work.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

BARKING.—The Free Library of Barking, the first town in Essex to adopt the Libraries Acts, was formally opened by Professor Westlake, Q.C., on May 31.

BRECHIN.—The unknown donor of £5,000 for a Free Library has, in deference to the views of the Town Council, modified the conditions of his offer as follows:—"That £3,000 of the £5,000 offered be applied to the purchase of a site and the erection of the necessary buildings, the money to be paid when the site and plans are agreed on, the balance of £2,000 to be paid only after the building is furnished with at least 6,000 volumes, paid for by the inhabitants out of funds to be raised by them by subscription or otherwise, the balance of £2,000 to be invested as arranged, and the income thereof applied in purchasing new books, &c., from time to time, in meeting the cost of the upkeep of the house, insurance, &c., leaving only the management and the other necessary expenses to be raised by taxation under the Public Libraries Act."

CAMBUSLANG.—The Library of the Mutual Improvement Society has been conveyed to trustees for the benefit of the villagers, and it will be re-opened at the end of September.

CANTERBURY.—The latest proposal for the Marlowe Memorial at Canterbury is the founding of a public library, but up to the present the subscriptions towards the fund have not come in so well as had been expected.

CLERKENWELL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The design for the library building, submitted by Messrs. Karslake & Mortimer, has been selected from eight designs sent in by seven architects. The building will be four storeys in height, and will cover an area of 3,000 square feet. Accommodation is provided for 250 readers and about 50,000 volumes; but there will be additional storage available for very nearly 50,000 volumes more. The design presents several novel features, which may be described in a future number of *The Library*.

COLNE.—The ratepayers have rejected the Libraries Acts by 1317 votes to 666.

DUNDEE.—The Dundee Free Library has again found a generous friend. Mr. Dalgleish of Errol Park, and senior partner of Messrs. Baxter, Bros. & Co., has given a donation of £1,000 for the purpose of fitting up the electric light in the lending and reference libraries, reading-room, permanent picture gallery, and museum in the Albert Institute. The gift relieves the committee of serious embarrassments, as they had only funds sufficient to install the electric light in the Victoria Art Galleries. Mr. Dalgleish some time ago presented a valuable picture by John M'Whirter, A.R.A., entitled "The Falls of Tummel," to the permanent collection in the Institute.

FALKIRK.—Mr. T. D. Brodie has given £100 and Miss Dawson £50 towards extinguishing the debt of £200 on the public library building.

HALIFAX.—The Town Council of this borough decided, at a recent meeting, to purchase the Belle Vue Estate, from Sir Savile Brinton Crossley, for the sum of £8000. It is intended for the future home of the Free Library, the fine mansion being in every way adaptable for such a purpose. The present building occupied by the Free Library is quite

inadequate to cope with the increasing demands made upon it, and the committee have been compelled for some time past to look out for more suitable premises. The Committee during the past twelve months have also established a branch library and reading-room, art gallery and museum, at the North end of the town. The branch opened with a stock of 12,000 volumes.

HINDLEY, LANCASHIRE.—Mr. John Smith, of the Wigan Mechanics' Institution, has been appointed librarian of the Hindley Free Library, in succession to Mr. A. B. Craston, who has received an appointment at Barnet, near London.

LEICESTER.—At a meeting of the Town Council the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Free Public Libraries was submitted. In moving its adoption, Mr. Alderman Stevenson referred in terms of high praise to the work of the librarian, Mr. Kirkby.

LIVERPOOL.—A bill promoted by the Liverpool Corporation, which was before a Committee of the House of Commons, on May 7th, contains clauses relating to the borrowing powers of the Libraries' Committee. Mr. Pope, Q.C., said the objections of the Local Government Board to this section appeared to be directed to the power of borrowing. The effect of this clause would be to enable the Corporation to borrow, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1852, for the purpose of lending libraries and reading-rooms. The Board thought it right to draw the attention of the committee to the unsatisfactory provisions contained in that act, with respect to borrowing and repayment of loans, and suggested that the provisions of the Act of 1852 with regard to the borrowing and repayment of loans, should be repealed, and fresh powers, more in accordance with recent legislation, be substituted. What the promoters proposed in order to meet that view was that, without re-enacting fresh powers, there should be a proviso that if any moneys were borrowed—they were not sure that they would require to borrow at the present moment—such moneys should be repaid within forty years from the date of borrowing. It was not clear, in the Act of 1852, whether the power to borrow money for public libraries included lending libraries and reading-rooms, and the bill proposed that this doubtful point should be cleared up. The committee fixed the period of repayment at thirty years, and agreed that the clause as amended stand part of the bill.

LIVERPOOL.—The annual meeting of the proprietors of the Liverpool Library was held on May 29. Mr. John Newton, President, in the chair. The Committee, in their report, stated that the income of the Institution from all sources had been £1,409 os. 11d., of which £580 17s. 1d. had been expended on the purchase and hire of books and in bookbinding. The working expenses amounted to £604 6s. 9d., leaving a balance in hand of £223 17s. 1d., which would be devoted to the cost of compiling and printing the new catalogue. The statistics for the year showed that the number of works issued was 65,884, equal to a daily issue of 524 volumes. The most important event of the year had been the completion of the new general catalogue. The preparation of the MS. of the new catalogue involved a rigid examination of every book in the library, and it was ascertained that 292 works (exclusive of those in class P—fiction) were wholly, or in part, missing. A circular was despatched to every proprietor, with the result that about 30 only had been returned. The conclusion could not be avoided that, under the present system, a number of books were being constantly taken from the library without their issue being recorded. For more than a century after the foundation of the library the bookcases were closed, and books were only to be obtained by application to the librarian or other officials, who could, therefore, be held

responsible for all losses ; but in 1859 all restrictions were removed, and for the last 30 years the freest access to the shelves had been accorded, not only to the proprietors, but to their families. We hope to notice the new catalogue in our next issue.

THE London County Council, on May 31, decided by 60 votes to 9 in favour of petitioning Parliament to open museums, art galleries, and libraries on Sundays.

LONDON : BERMONDSEY.—The Libraries Acts were adopted in this parish about eighteen months ago, but, owing to the hostile action of the majority of the late vestry, no commissioners to carry them into effect were appointed until June 4th, when nine commissioners were elected.

LONDON LIBRARY.—Mr. Gladstone occupied the chair at the annual meeting of the London Library on May 29. In their report, the committee spoke with satisfaction of the progress of the library. The financial gain accruing to the society on the year was £953, the membership on the register being 2,016. The cash balance at the bankers was £2,193, and, taking into consideration the fact that the cost of the new catalogue had been paid, as well as the larger part of the expense of making and furnishing the new rooms at the back of the library, the committee had now before them the question of paying off a debenture bond of £1,000. The number of volumes added to the library during the year by purchase and gifts was 7,485, and 140 pamphlets. This unusual number included the remaining portion of the valuable bequest of the late Mrs. Mackay. The number of volumes sent out of the library for circulation during the year was 115,607.—Mr. Gladstone, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he might be permitted to congratulate the members upon the very steady progress, upon the singular utility, of that very unpretending but very valuable institution. He offered those congratulations very sincerely. It would not be becoming on his part to pretend to a minute acquaintance with the state of its concerns, nor was he now a very frequent visitor; but he had the fortune, or misfortune, of fulfilling a character that was probably now becoming rare amongst them—that of being an original member. There had been times when he was a pretty diligent member of the committee, but he had not been so entirely unacquainted with their experience of late years, as not to be able to recognize the fact that the career of the institution had been one, not only of great and unquestioned, but of constantly growing, benefits to the large class of persons, who availed themselves of it by becoming subscribers—a class, he might say, exceedingly important to the community at large, as he apprehended they had, in comparison with other institutions, fewer otiose members—fewer nominal members—than perhaps almost any of them. Those who joined the library joined for a purpose. The well-worn condition of their books was, in point of fact, most emphatic testimony to the real and practical character of the institution. If it were possible to make a fair estimate between the relations between means and results, in the case of that library or any other establishment, or if they could present statistically how much was the gross receipt of it, and how much the nett effect of it in actual working good done, the fact was that, probably, that library would stand the test as well as any other institution of a literary character, or almost any character, in this vast metropolis.—Sir H. Barkly seconded the adoption of the report, which was, after discussion, agreed to, it being incidentally urged upon the committee to afford members greater facilities for using the library for reference purposes. This Mr. S. Gedge, M.P., promised the committee would consider.—On the motion of Mr. Leslie Stephen, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, Mr. E. A. Bond, Mr. R. C. Christie, and Sir Mountstuart

Grant Duff, were elected members of the committee, in the place of Mr. F. Harrison, Mr. E. Peacock, and the Dean of Westminster, who retire. Professor Huxley, Mr. G. J. Romanes, and Mr. Herbert Spencer, were re-appointed members of the committee. Mr. G. H. Hopkinson and Mr. B. Newbatt were re-elected auditors.—In proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Gladstone for presiding, Sir H. Barkly spoke of the warm interest the right hon. gentleman had always shown in the welfare of the institution.—Mr. Gladstone assured the mover and all present that it had been a real pleasure to him to come among them, though only, so to speak, for a moment, and though only upon an occasion which, perhaps, might not be frequently repeated in the future. But he had a very real and very strong conviction as to the nature and the character of their institution. In days when he had a larger margin of available time, he was glad to testify his interest in it by a fair practical share in the labours of those, who consulted for its welfare. He did not claim any merit in the performance of a duty which had been to him eminently agreeable, and he felt himself obliged to the committee, and to the excellent librarian, Mr. Harrison, for giving him an opportunity of assuring them of his continued interest in the institution. He expressed his heartiest good wishes for its prosperity and its permanence; for, although it was an institution the books of which were subject undoubtedly to severe wear and tear, yet, in some manner or other, restorative processes would always be forthcoming in sufficient manner and degree, and the favour of the public would be progressively extended to the institution, with such decision, that they might consider themselves to have outlived, as he trusted, the period of their difficulties; and might believe that that very useful institution would continue to bestow benefits and conveniences upon the children and grandchildren, he would even venture to say, of those present, as it had bestowed upon those who had known from experience its great advantages.

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—The *Graphic* of June 1 has a portrait and brief memoir of Mr. Frank Moss, the promoter of the Paddington Free Library. Miss Edney's portrait of Mr. Moss was presented to him by the subscribers on the above date. Subsequently, in connection with the event, a dinner took place in the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, at which, Mr. Frederic Harrison, after paying a compliment to the chairman for his exertions locally, remarked that we in England were very seriously in arrear, in the matter of free libraries, compared with cities on the Continent and the United States, and even with our large provincial cities and towns. Within the last few years, however, a change for the better had fortunately taken place, and it was to be hoped that the public mind would continue to be impressed with the great advantage and desirability of extending the free library movement.—Mr. E. Maunde Thompson thought that the movement was growing, and that within two years we should be on a level with the Continent in this respect.

LONDON: SOUTHWARK.—Mr. H. Ogle, of Nottingham, has been appointed librarian of the Free Public Library, in Christchurch Parish.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. Henry Boddington, a member of the Free Libraries' Committee, has purchased, and presented to the Free Reference Library, the late Mr. John Eglington Bailey's remarkable collection of books and pamphlets on shorthand. The stenographic collection at the Free Library is now one of the finest and most complete in the country.

NEWARK-ON-TRENT.—On May 24th, the Queen's birthday, the Free Library, presented to the town by Sir William Gilstrap, was formally opened. A portrait of Sir William, and an exterior view of the building, are given in the *Illustrated London News*, June 1st.

NORWICH.—The Rev. H. H. Snell, in an address delivered on Sunday, June 2, took the "opportunity of congratulating the city of Norwich upon retaining in its Free Library the services of a librarian and sub-librarian, who enter with the greatest interest into their labours, and throw a large amount of zeal and intelligence into the management of the institution. It is not a large library, the lending department only consisting of 12,000 volumes; but such is the sympathy with readers, and anxiety to accommodate them with the desired volumes, shown by the librarian and his assistants, that the institution is very popular, and each one of these 12,000 volumes has been issued, on the average, seven times during the year. Somehow or other the right spirit has got into the library, and a real effort is made to put it fully at the service of its members, and it cannot fail to effect great educational good in the community.

SELKIRK.—Mr. Andrew Lang played the principal part at the opening of the Selkirk Free Library, on May 25. The library is placed in the disused county jail, which was sometime ago purchased by Mr. T. Craig Brown, made suitable for the purposes of a free library, and then presented by him to the town. In a discursive address, Mr. Lang said that "as the best foundation of a cellar was said to be a good collection of old port, so the best foundation for a library was a good collection of old and new novels. Novels were what the public really wanted to read, when the public was not engaged in the study of contemporary history, of which they took such enormous doses in the morning, midday and evening papers. He did not think it was good for them to read newspapers too exclusively. What they wanted primarily were good novels, because, after all, what they desired, especially among the young, was not so much to encourage a taste for one or other sort of reading, but to encourage a taste for reading to start with. Of course they were not going to confine themselves to novels. There were works on travel, and on history, and on political economy. He did not suppose poetry would be much in demand, but they would, of course, remember the old Border ballads. He had studied, as far as in him lay, the peasant literature of most European nations, and, in all the fundamental qualities of poetry, he had read nothing more valuable or more precious than the ballads of the Scottish border. Then, as to desultory reading, he was thoroughly of opinion that young people ought not to be discouraged from reading, because their reading appeared to be desultory. They were reading what they liked, they were making their selection. There was profit as well as pleasure to be derived from learning, and in this connection he would strongly counsel young men to learn and to read French and German books. The commercial advantages following upon a knowledge of these two languages were only too well known.

STONEHOUSE.—The Local Board have appointed a Committee to ascertain the opinion of the ratepayers, as to the adoption of the Libraries' Acts.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Norwich. The Report of the Free Library Committee to the Town Council, from March 26th, 1888, to March 25th, 1889. 8vo. pp. 20.

The lending library contains 11,966 volumes, the reference library 4,660 volumes, and the local collection 1,400 volumes. These figures are exclusive of pamphlets, which number, in the reference department, 670, and in the local collection, 1,930. Very large additions have been made to the library within the year, numbering 1,492 volumes, and 600 pamphlets. The number of borrowers in 1888-9 was 3,660, an increase of 110 as compared with the preceding year. The total issues were 81,065, representing 86,860 volumes, being an increase of 3,815 issues, or 4,224

volumes over last year. The rate yielded £1,072. 10s. 10d. We notice with satisfaction that the "last instalment of loan" has been paid, so that the adverse balance bids fair to be wiped out within the current year. The librarian is Mr. George Easter.

Norwich. Catalogue of the Norwich Free Library, comprising a list of books, entered under both author and subject; and an Appendix, containing titles or contents of series of works, works in or on foreign languages, music, and shorthand; titles of plays in the library, contents of reviews, and works of fiction in magazines. Lending Department, Dec. 1887. Norwich, 1889. Cr. 8vo. pp. viii, 304.

The scope of the catalogue prepared by Mr. Easter is so fully explained in the title-page, that little need be added beyond a few criticisms on the manner in which he has carried out the work. In the catalogue proper, the use of bars to save repetition in printing has been rather freely resorted to,—in some cases it takes a few moments' study to make out the title, which should be apparent at a glance. This is the more objectionable in the present instance as no space has been saved in printing. In order to furnish his readers with the press-mark of every volume in the library, Mr. Easter devotes a line to each volume or two volumes of such long sets as *Blackwood's Magazine*, *Chambers' Journal*, *Good Words*; a system both antiquated and extravagant. The portion of the appendix devoted to "works in or on foreign languages," presents some examples of arrangement which, in a second edition, will doubtless be remedied. The lists of plays, and of works of fiction in periodicals, are most valuable, and render the catalogue a desirable acquisition to those outside the circle for which it was compiled.

Borough of Portsmouth Free Public Library. Fifth Annual Report, 1888-89. pp. 16.

The library contains 19,857 volumes. 10,077 borrowers have had issued to them 254,162 books from the lending department; that is, on an average, each borrower changed a book every fortnight. The daily average is 864.49, so that 17 out of every 20 borrowers attend daily to change books. The number of visitors was counted on six separate days, including *two* Saturdays, and the result is given as 391,425 visits to the reading room during the year. Complaints are still made of the wretched accommodation given to the students in the reference library. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate realised £1,175 15s. 10d; the total amount received was £1,286 1s. 1d. The librarian is Mr. Tweed D. A. Jewers.

Putney Free Public Library. First Report of the Commissioners, 1887-89. pp. 15.

The poll taken on March 28th, 1887, gave the following figures:—For, 1064, Against, 572, showing a majority in favour of adopting the Public Libraries Acts of 492. The Commissioners opened a temporary building at the Tower House, Disraeli Road, on April 7th, 1888, the negotiations with the "Vestry Hall Site Committee" having proved abortive. At present there are 3,772 volumes and 241 pamphlets in the library. Between April 9th, 1888, and April 30th, 1889, 6,024 volumes were issued for reading at the library. The 1d. rate realised £460; total receipts £951 os. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Mr. C. F. Tweney is librarian and clerk.

Borough of Reading. Free Public Library and Museum. Reports 1885-89. pp. 18.

The number of books now possessed by the library is 18,841, of which 11,955 are in the lending department, 3,399 in the reference, and 3,127

in the juvenile department. During the past year there have been issued 116,281 vols. from the lending department, 6,988 vols. from the reference department; and, for the three months it has been open, 12,783 from the juvenile department. During the year 1888-89, two branch reading rooms and a juvenile library were opened. Two catalogues have been issued during the past year: one of the juvenile library (which proved so popular that a second and enlarged edition has been published), and one of the reference library, in the appendix to which is a separate catalogue of the local collection—Books and Pamphlets relating to Reading and Berkshire. No financial statement is given. Mr. Wm. H. Greenhough is chief librarian and superintendent of the Art Museum.

Westminster. United Parishes of St. Margaret and St. John the Evangelist, Westminster. Thirty-second Annual Report of the Commissioners of the Free Public Libraries, 1888-9. pp. 19, and Balance Sheet.

In the chief library (Great Smith Street) are 18,924 vols.; in the branch library (Trevor Square, Knightsbridge) are 2,845, counting three-volume novels as one, and exclusive of pamphlets and unbound magazines. During the year 72,158 vols. were issued to borrowers from the chief lending library; 74,007 vols. issued to readers in the chief library reading-rooms; 12,729 vols. to borrowers from the branch lending library; and 16,674 vols. to readers in the branch library reading-rooms, forming a total of 175,568 vols. issued, with a daily average issue of 574 vols. The Church House authorities wish to acquire the chief library premises, and the Commissioners hope soon to announce that the building of a more convenient and commodious chief library is in hand. The library rate produced £1,400—total receipts £1,610 15s. Mr. H. E. Poole is secretary and librarian.

Liverpool Library. The One Hundred and thirty-first Annual Report of the Committee. 8vo. 8 pp. 1889.

Mr. Wakefield's carefully prepared statement shows that this library, one of the oldest of its kind, keeps pace with the times, in spite of the severe competition of its modern competitors. We question the economy of the lavish issue of postcards to advise readers that the books they want are in the library. In a library of some 800 members surely 8,436 postcards, at a cost of about £30, is an extravagance that should be cut down in the interests of the more reasonable people, who do not grudge the trouble of calling and asking for the books they want. In similar libraries it has been found a wholesome plan to charge one penny (the cost of the card) for this privilege, and it is wonderful how moderate the demands of the exigent folk become when they have themselves to pay for this luxury.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The (Periodical Press) Index: a monthly record of leading subjects in current literature. No. 1. May 15th, 1889. Sm. 4to. pp. ii + 26 + iv. (London, Trübner, 1889.)

We congratulate Mr. John S. Farmer on his plucky effort to supply a "long-felt want," and most heartily wish his venture every success. To quote himself, "The P. P. Index aims at presenting a record of the more

important subjects dealt with in periodical literature at home and abroad," and it is only fair to say that No. 1 gives fair promise of fulfilling the compiler's purpose. It is the easiest thing in the world to pick holes in such a work as this, and one might like to suggest some changes in the classed headings, but the fact remains that Mr. Farmer has undertaken, single-handed, a task that waited a long time for the joint work of a company of indexers, and has produced a most excellent piece of work. Copies of the P. P. Index should be found in every library.

A list of Civil War Tracts and Broadsides relating to the County of Lincoln; compiled by Ernest L. Grange. Horncastle, 1889, 4to. pp. 20.

The arrangement is chronological, and the titles are reproduced in full. The whereabouts of each book described is stated. The editor asks for information as to pamphlets which he may have overlooked. The edition is limited to 75 copies, exclusively for private circulation.

The Reference Catalogue of current literature, containing the full titles of books now in print and on sale, with the prices at which they may be ordered at all booksellers, and an index containing upwards of 68,000 references. London: J. Whitaker & Sons [1889]. 8vo.

One of the most useful among the working books of reference of the practical librarian. The present edition forms the stoutest octavo volume ever produced, being eleven inches in thickness, and weighs twelve pounds. It contains full or selected lists of about 130 publishers. The total number of entries in the admirable index exceeds 68,500, being upwards of 15,000 more than were contained in the index prefixed to the last issue.

An Index to the Archæologia: or miscellaneous tracts relating to antiquity from volume I to volume L inclusive, published by the Society of Antiquaries of London. London, 1889, 4to, pp. 806.

This massive volume will be welcomed in libraries, as it indexes the result of antiquarian research in this country for over a hundred years back. The work was begun by Mr. Edward Peacock, and completed by Mr. Mill Stephenson.

Bibliothèque du comité de Legislation Etrangère. Catalogue. Janvier. 1889. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1889, 8vo, pp. xl, 718.

The collection is almost entirely devoted to international and comparative law, and to the legal literature of countries foreign to France. The arrangement is by subjects, the titles are sufficiently full, and accompanied in the case of foreign works with a French translation. There are many useful notes. The catalogue will be found a desirable accession in law libraries.

Nederlandsche Bibliographie van Kerkgeschiedenis; door Dr. W. P. C. Knuttel. Amsterdam, 1889; la. 8vo, pp. xiii, 411.

The third publication of *Bijdragen tot eene Nederlandsche Bibliographie uitgegeven door het Frederik Muller-Fonds*. Full titles arranged under authors' names, with notes, and a classified index.

Mr. W. L. Taylor has reprinted, for private circulation, from *Scottish Notes and Queries*, his Bibliography of *Peterhead Periodical Literature* (sm. 8vo, pp. viii, 22).

A bibliography of books, maps and charts, relating to the country (1844-87) is appended to *Morocco: Journeys in the Kingdom of Fez, and to the Court of Mulai Hassan*, by H. M. P. de la Martinière (London: Whittaker & Co., 1889, 8vo, pp. xi, 478).

An *Index to Engineering Periodicals, 1883 to 1887*, cr. 8vo, by Francis E. Galloupe, has been published. It comprises the subjects of engineering, rail-roads, science, manufactures and trade.

An article on "Henry Bradshaw and the Cambridge University Library," is contained in the April number of the *Church Quarterly Review*.

Obituary.

WE regret to announce the death, on the 8th May last, of Mr. Frederick J. Comber, a senior assistant in the Birmingham Reference Library, who was only 31 years of age, and had been ill no more than a few weeks. He has left a wife with six young children, on whose behalf a subscription fund is being raised amongst the friends of the deceased, by whom he was highly respected, and who deeply regret his loss. Whatever amount is received will be added to a fund, which has been started by the efforts of the Birmingham Library Staff. It is thought that there are many members of the Library Association, who may wish to show their sympathy in a practical manner. Those who may be desirous of contributing are requested kindly to communicate with Mr. Cecil T. Davis, Public Library, Wandsworth, S.W., who is acting as treasurer of the fund.

Correspondence.

A PLEA FOR PAPERS ON BIBLIOLOGY.

To the Editor of 'The Library.'

SIR,—In view of the next Annual Meeting of the Library Association, I crave space to ask the attention of members to the desirability of offering papers on Bibliology. It seems to me that this important part of a librarian's studies does not get the attention it deserves in the meetings of the Association. The systematised knowledge of books, as dealing with subjects, is to a librarian, in this practical age, of even more importance than the knowledge of the externals of books, and of equal importance with the correct description of title-pages. The busy librarian is frequently consulted as to the best books on particular subjects, as for instance, on Photography, Marine Engineering, the Evolution Theory, Palaeontology, Assyrian History, Palaeography, Colonial Life, or on the "Remotest part of Siberia." Now, none of us can be expected to have a special knowledge of all these subjects, but I do not see why we might not be much more competent to answer similar enquiries, if any member, or other specially qualified person, would give the Association an account of the best books dealing with his own special hobby. This account should not be a mere list of books or title-pages, but rather a statement of the *good* books on all the branches of the subject, and of the chapters or other parts of books, for which alone certain books are desirable. They who know (and who of us does not?) Cossa's *Guide to the Study of Political Economy*, will have a clear idea of what kind of comment would be required, in dealing with books after the fashion here pleaded for.

Mr. Robert Harrison's papers in the *Library Chronicle* on "Charles Nodier" and on "County Bibliography," and our esteemed President's paper on "Elzevir Bibliography," read at Glasgow, abound in the kind of brief critical comment on the value of particular books which is needed. This method, extended to subjects of every-day interest, from the point of view of the busy public would be admirable. In a few years, for instance, the whole ground of English Local Topography, from a general stand-point, might be covered by papers from Librarians or collectors in the several districts; and the librarian in Dorset would then know what book on the topography of West Yorkshire is most reliable as to facts, and therefore best to get for Dorsetshire readers; or a student of the civil wars, residing in Cumberland, might safely be answered, as to the probability of specially valuable information on the Battle of Naseby being in a Northamptonshire publication. Each year, also, a specially informed outsider might be asked by the Council to read a communication on a certain topic, as for instance, photography, or electric lighting. I am convinced that, by such useful work, the Association will best preserve its dignity, increase its usefulness, and attract members from the book-loving class. Just a few words more; if these views commend themselves to any librarian or collector let him ask himself: What special knowledge of the kind have I? Let him at once begin to make notes thereof, and, as soon as his notes have grown to the size of a five or ten minutes' paper, offer the same to the Council for the benefit of his brethren.

Bootle Free Library.

June 6th, 1889.

JOHN J. OGLE.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, PRESTON.

To the Editor of 'The Library.'

SIR,—Occasionally comparative tables of issues are given in free library reports, the only object of which can be self-laudation. In the report just issued from the Borough of Reading, Preston is given as having issued 85,000 volumes during the year. Now, our report plainly states that the library was closed on 72 days, in addition to Sundays and holidays, but this important fact is ignored in the Reading statistics. Other towns may be in like case to ours.

The Rochdale report gives the same misleading figures, and further states, gratuitously and inaccurately, that the Preston Library was opened in 1878. It was opened in 1879. If comparative statistics are wanted, surely it is better that they should be given by an independent and impartial compiler.

W. S. BRAMWELL.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester.

Hon. Treasurer:

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53, Berners Street, W.

ERNEST C. THOMAS,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

The last Monthly Meeting was held by the invitation of the Commissioners at the Wandsworth Public Library, on Monday, June 17th, at 7.30, Mr. Geo. William Barnard in the chair.

It was announced that the Free Public Library of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Long Acre, and Miss Olivia Dymond, librarian of the People's Palace, Mile End, had joined the Association. Mr. W. Swan-Sonnenschein was elected a member.

Mr. J. P. Edmond having given notice at the last meeting of his intention to question the Council as to the volumes of *Transactions* still unpublished, a resolution to that effect was carried, and it was agreed on the part of the Council that the desired information should be published in *The Library* at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Arthur Wollaston Hutton read a Paper on "A Political Club Library," and Mr. Cecil Davis gave an account of the history and working of the Wandsworth Public Library, and afterwards conducted the members through the rooms. Votes of thanks to Mr. Hutton, to Mr. Davis, and to the Chairman, terminated the first visit of the Association to a metropolitan rate-supported library.

The Treasurer will be much obliged if newly elected members will send to him their entrance-fee and subscription. He also hopes that members in arrear may not delay payment of their overdue subscriptions.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisers and Business Letters to the Publisher, 6a, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Printed for the Publisher, by J. DAVY & SONS, at the DRYDEN PRESS, 137, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The Library.

The Library of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.¹

IN the present paper it is proposed to give a sketch of the rise and progress of the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. It may not, however, be out of place to preface this sketch with a short account of the College itself.

In the year 1745 the Barbers and Surgeons, who, from 1540 until that date, had formed one company, separated, and the latter were incorporated under the title of "The Masters, Governors and Commonalty of the Art and Science of Surgery." Having no building of their own in which to meet, the new Company found a home at Stationers' Hall until 1751, when their premises—known as Surgeons' Hall—in the Old Bailey, were ready for occupation. By a somewhat curious accident the Company came to a premature end in 1796. It was decreed by the Act of Incorporation that the Court of Assistants should consist of a Master or Chief Governor, and two Governors or Wardens, with other Members, of whom the Master and one Governor, together with one or two Members, should form a Court for the despatch of business. On July 7th, 1796, a Court was held at which neither of the Governors was present. One of them, William Walker, had died in the previous May, whilst the remaining one, John Wyatt, was in Warwickshire, blind and paralysed. Great efforts were made to bring Wyatt to London so that there might be a properly constituted Court: his state of health was, however, so bad that this was found to be impossible. The meeting was nevertheless held, but, on taking Counsel's opinion, it was found that the Corporation had come to an end by the holding of this illegal Court. It was attempted to put matters right by a Bill in Parliament, but there was so much opposition from those who were practising without the diploma of the Corporation, that the Bill, after passing safely through the Commons, was thrown out by the Lords. In the following year attempts were made to come to terms with the opponents of the Bill, and finally it was agreed to petition for a Charter from the Crown to establish a Royal

¹ Read before the Library Association, Jan. 14th, 1889.

College of Surgeons in London; one of the conditions insisted upon by the opponents being that a Library should be part of the new College. These negotiations were successfully carried out in 1800, and the old Corporation having disposed of their Old Bailey property to the City Authorities, the College took possession of a house in Lincoln's Inn Fields, the site of the present building. In 1821 a supplemental Charter was received, and in 1843, by a further one, the name of the College was changed to that which it at present bears—The Royal College of Surgeons of England. During last year (1888) another supplemental Charter was granted to the College.

Before proceeding with the history of the College Library, it may be interesting to notice a much earlier one with which the surgeons were connected. Mr. Sidney Young, one of the Court of Assistants of the Barbers' Company, who has in the press a History of the Barbers and Surgeons, has been good enough to favour me with the following extract from his MS.¹

"When the Surgeons were separated from the Barbers by Act of Parliament in 1745, there was a very good library of surgical books embracing early editions of ancient writers and a quantity of old surgical MSS. By the Act it was declared

"That such of the Books, Papers and Writings which now belong to the said United Company of Barbers and Surgeons and relate to or concern the Surgeons or Surgery only shall be delivered by the said Company of Barbers . . . to the said Company of Surgeons."

"The Barbers handed over to the Surgeons such Books, Papers and Writings, as related to Surgery, so far as they concerned the Company; these were probably very few, such as the Registers of "Foreign Brothers," the Registers of Examined Surgeons, the Journals of Sea Surgeons and the like. All other business entries relating to Surgery were entered in the general books of the Barber-Surgeons, and these are still kept at Barbers' Hall. The Library was retained by the Barbers and considered by them as their personal property."

"In 1747, Mr. Whiston (the eminent Bookseller) was employed by the Barbers' Company to make a catalogue and valuation of the Library and MSS. "A learned physician" had offered the Company twenty-five guineas for the Library, together with a skeleton and some other curiosities, but the Court of the Barbers "being desirous to manifest their esteem for and preserve the friendship of the Surgeons," gave them the refusal of the Library and skeleton, &c., for twenty-five guineas. "And that in case of their acceptance thereof, the rich

¹ The Annals of the Barber-Surgeons of London, compiled from their Records and other sources, by Sidney Young.

and ancient pall belong to this Company should be at their service as a free gift."

"The Surgeons would not accept this offer, but said (for the first time after a two years separation and division of the property) that they considered the Library belonged to them under the provisions in the Act of Parliament."

"Various attempts were subsequently made by the Barbers' Company to sell the Library, and in 1751 it was disposed of to Mr. Whiston for £13. ! It is greatly to be regretted that the Surgeons' Company did not purchase it and so preserve to the Royal College of Surgeons, what must undoubtedly have been a most curious and unique collection. Dozens of these old books had bosses and chains attached to them, and in the old days were guarded with a jealous care. In 1701 Dr. Tyson made some proposals to the Company for the regulation of its Library, and a Committee of the Court being thereupon appointed drew up a great many rules, all of which are set out in the Barber-Surgeon's Minute Book of that date."

No list of the books is now known; there were two in MS., but Mr. Young tells me they have both disappeared. I have not been able to see any of Whiston's Catalogues issued about 1751-2: in all probability these would contain the titles of many of the books in this lost Library.

The following extract is from the United Company of Barbers and Surgeons' expenses for 1638.

1638-1639.

The charge and setting upp our books and auintient Manuscriptes in our new Library.

Paid for 36 yards of chaine at 4d. the yard, and 36 yards at 3d. the yard, cometh to	xxijs. vid.
Paid to the Coppersmith for casting 80 brasses to fasten the chaines to the booke	xiijs. iiijd.
To porters at severall tymes to carry these books	ij.
Paid to the booke bynders for new byndinge 15 books	xlvijs. vid.
Paid for Claspinge 19 large and small booke, and fasteninge all the brasses to the chaines, in Three score and foure booke, 8s.; setting on old bosses, js.; mending ould claspes, ijs.	xxxjs. viijd.
Paid for makeing Ringes, swiffles, and fittinge all the iron chaines	xijs.

Somme is vijli xvijs.

The Library of the College dates from the year 1800, that is the same year as the Charter of Incorporation. It had, however, been the intention of the old Corporation of Surgeons to form a Library, although they had never carried their intention into

effect. In the minutes there is, on more than one occasion, mention of the Library Room, and in 1753 a resolution was passed "That the Clerk do provide a dozen of chairs and a table and grate for the Library." The subsequent history shows that this accommodation was more for transacting College business than for the foundation of a Reading Room. In 1790 the Library had not made any progress, for on the 1st of July in that year, Mr. Gunning, who was the retiring Master of the Company, rated the Court of Assistants soundly for, their misdoings, and, amongst other things, charged them with neglect in not founding a Library. "Your Library room without books" (said the irate master), "is converted into an office for your Clerk." In another part of his address, Mr. Gunning thus again refers to the want of a Library. "I must now mention what I early thought right, and what many Gentlemen have agreed with me in, which is that the Society ought to be possessed of a Library, which, when completed, should, under certain restrictions, be open to the students in Surgery for their information. I could wish that a sum not exceeding £80 per annum might be appropriated for the completion of this purpose, and I hope the Gentlemen will think this a proper way of disposing of their money likewise."

At an earlier period than that of Master Gunning attention had been drawn to the want of a professional Library by a much greater man than the angry master. In August, 1786, John Hunter addressed the following letter¹ to the Corporation :—

GENTLEMEN,

At this period, in which the surgeons of Great Britain have deservedly acquired the highest reputation in Europe, both by their practice and publications, it appears to be a reflection upon them that the Corporation of Surgeons of London should not be possessed of a public Surgical Library, a circumstance so extraordinary that foreigners can hardly believe it.

If a custom had been established at the time the surgeons were incorporated, that every member should send a copy of his publications to the Company's library, it would have at present contained the works of many of the best writers in Surgery, which might have proved a valuable collection of instructions for the improvement of the profession.

As the smallest beginnings may in the end lead to the greatest acquisitions, I have done myself the honour of presenting to the Company, through your hands, the few observations on Anatomy and Surgery which I have published; and should the other members of that body be induced to follow my example, and by presenting their works establish a Library which shall hereafter become both a public benefit and an

¹ The original letter is in Mr. T. Madden Stone's Collection of Autographs.

honour to the Corporation of Surgeons, I shall consider it as one of the happiest events of my life to have been at all instrumental in such an establishment.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
JOHN HUNTER.

Leicester Square, August 14, 1786.

These books of Hunter's may fairly be looked upon as the foundation of the Library, although fifteen years were yet to elapse before his letter bore any fruit. It is with the Museum of the College that the name of John Hunter is inseparably connected, but it is pleasing for us in the Library to feel that he really took the first practical step towards founding the valuable collection of books now housed within the college walls.

As before stated the present Library dates from the year 1800, the first grant of a sum not exceeding £50 being made in July of that year. For some years the expenditure on the Library averaged less than the modest sum of £80, as originally proposed by Mr. Gunning, the authorities relying more on donations than on purchases. Thus Sir William Blizard, in his Hunterian Oration in 1823, speaking of the recent death of Sir Charles Blicke, says: "Sir Charles was a consistent benefactor. Although from the beginning of the collegial establishment a Library of reference was a declared part of the system adopted for the communication of scientific knowledge, and notwithstanding invitations to members of the College and other persons to promote that object, until Sir Charles became a liberal donor of books the appearance of the Library was poor indeed." It should here be mentioned that in 1816 Sir Charles Blicke invested the sum of £300, the proceeds of which were to be devoted to the purchase of books. Among the principal donors should be mentioned Dr. Baillie, Sir Everard Home, Sir Charles Blicke, the widow of Mr. Sharp, Sir Ludford Harvey, Dr. Fleming, Mr. Cotton and Mr. Long.

The progress of the Library for the first 26 years of its existence was very slow; there was no librarian and frequent complaints were made of the inaccessibility of the books. In 1827 great efforts were made to put the Library in a thoroughly good condition, and in that and the two subsequent years the sum of £5,269 was spent in the purchase of books. In 1829 the first Librarian was appointed, and there can be no doubt but that to the knowledge and energy of Dr. Willis the Library owes much of its completeness, particularly as regards the older medical writers and the scientific and medical periodical literature of the early part of this century.

In 1833 a Library Committee was appointed, and this form of government continues to the present day. As before mentioned, the first Librarian was Dr. Robert Willis, who continued to hold the office until his resignation in 1845; from that date Mr. Thomas Madden Stone superintended the Library work until the appointment of Mr. John Chatto as Librarian in 1853. On Mr. Chatto's death, in 1887, I had the honour of being elected as his successor.

In 1799 Parliament voted £15,000 for the purchase of John Hunter's Museum, and an offer of it being made to the Corporation of Surgeons it was accepted on the terms proposed by the Government. In 1806 the sum of £15,000 was voted by Parliament in aid of the erection of an edifice for the display and arrangement of the Hunterian Collection; a second grant of £12,500 was subsequently voted, and upwards of £21,000 having been supplied from the funds of the College, the building was completed in Lincoln's Inn Fields, in which the Museum was opened for the inspection of visitors in 1813.¹ This edifice was erected for the College by Messrs. Dance and Lewis. At its opening two rooms were allotted to the Library, but the accommodation soon proved inadequate. In 1818 it was resolved to put book-cases in the Court Room, and in any other necessary part of the College and Museum, and again in 1829 the Cabinet Room was appropriated to Library purposes.

The first building suffered much from dry rot. This was stated by Sir Antony Carlisle in evidence before a committee appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty in 1835 to enquire into Kyan's patent for the prevention of dry rot. The patent process consisted of using corrosive sublimate on the timbers, and Sir Anthony, who must have been an enthusiast on the subject, informed the committee that he had chewed a mouthful of sawdust from timber so treated, and could distinctly taste the sublimate.

The College was practically rebuilt by Sir Charles Barry in 1835-6; during the re-building the books were packed in cases and stored in the Museum Gallery. Before the Select Committee on Medical Education in 1834, Mr. Guthrie gave evidence as follows: "Concerning the Library I beg to add that the College has formed a collection of books consisting of nearly 18,000 volumes, and will add to it several thousands more as soon as the new building, which is now in hand, is completed. One great object in re-building the College was to have a Library in which the books might be displayed and made accessible to everyone."

¹ Quoted from the College Calendar.

The Library was re-opened on the 15th Feb. 1837. The small Library had been opened in the previous October in the evening from 7 till 10 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This was not successful and was discontinued in the following year.

In the new building the rooms allotted to the library were the present Reading Room and the Librarian's Room, then known as the small Library. From the date of the new building until last year very little extra accommodation had been provided for the Library. A small Committee Room had been fitted up with shelves, and room made for a few books under the Theatre.

The munificent gift to the College by the late Sir Erasmus Wilson enabled the Council to very materially increase the accommodation for books, and also to thoroughly re-decorate and improve the old Library.

In addition to the re-decoration of the existing premises the electric light has been installed throughout the building, and a new and improved style of heating has been adopted.

Besides the extensive alterations to the old building a very handsome addition to the Library accommodation has been provided. The house occupied by the conservator of the Museum, at the east end of the College, has been pulled down, and, on its site, the Library extension now stands. The old Library is considerably enlarged by the addition of another room; these are connected by four archways, two on the ground floor and two in the gallery. Beneath this extension is a handsome book-room, and below that a commodious store-room. The new building, as at present shelved, gives accommodation for 26,000 volumes. It should, however, be mentioned that all this is not additional space: in the old reading-room the shelves were exceptionally deep, and in these the books stood in two and, in some places, in three rows—the labour of finding books under these circumstances can be easily imagined. A marble bust of Sir Erasmus Wilson has been placed at the east end of the extension.

It is impossible to give any trustworthy figures as to the growth of the Library from year to year, on account of the various modes adopted for counting the books at different periods. In fact, if it were necessary to bring forward any argument to show the misleading character of comparative statistics, I do not know of a better one than is afforded by the published figures of the contents of this Library. In the preface to the catalogue of 1849, it is stated that the Library then contained 48,390 volumes; at the present day the number of volumes is 40,000. The difference is accounted for by the methods adopted in counting; in 1849 each thesis and pamphlet

was counted as a volume, even though several of them were bound together. In the later figures, the number of volumes represents the books as they actually stand on the shelves.

The great increase in scientific periodical literature during the last quarter of a century is well shown, by comparing the list of journals and transactions entered in the catalogue of 1860, as then in progress, with those taken in by the College at the present day. The number in 1860 was 152; it has now risen to 360. I am not unmindful that statistics of this kind may be very misleading. The increase might be accounted for not so much by the greater number of journals published, as by this class of literature being now more diligently looked after in the library. This, however, is not the fact. To have the journals and transactions well represented has always been the aim of the library committee, and the fact that five-and twenty years ago no less than 152 journals were taken in in this—a special—Library, is a proof of this.

The growth of this class of literature is appalling to the librarian from the great demands made not only on the funds of the Library, but also on the shelf accommodation. There can, however, be no doubt that any librarian or library committee, who endeavoured to cut down this part of a scientific library, would sadly cripple its efficiency. It is pre-eminently the class of literature which cannot be found in private libraries; and it is only in institutions such as this College that a reader can hope to find a good, complete collection of these invaluable aids to research.

The first catalogue of the Library, an alphabetical one of authors only, was issued in 1831, and makes an 8vo. volume of 578 pages. A classed catalogue was prepared by Dr. Willis, and was in use in MS. for some years; in 1838 a synopsis of it was printed, and the work itself was issued in 1843. Although this catalogue was arranged with great skill it met with the same fate that nearly all similar compilations have done; there is no index of authors, and therefore readers must have experienced great difficulty in finding any information of which they were in search. This is proved by the following resolution passed by the library committee in 1848. "It having been stated to the Committee that the classed catalogue had been of little assistance to readers in consequence of the difficulties experienced in using it as a book of reference, and that great complaints had been often made respecting the same, the Committee do not consider it desirable at present to proceed with the work of collating the classed with the other catalogues."

Four supplements to the author catalogue were issued between the

years 1840 and 1860, and since that date no catalogue of the Library has been printed. The books received subsequent to 1860 are entered in MS. in a separate volume with the titles considerably abridged: so much so, in some instances, as to make the books difficult of identification. In 1853 an index of subjects was issued: this was mainly prepared by Mr. B. R. Wheatley, and revised by Mr. Chatto. It is somewhat on the plan of the Index to the catalogue of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, but is inferior to it from the fact that no dates are given, and the authors' names under the subject headings are in alphabetical instead of chronological order, this makes the index much less valuable than it would be were the dates given.

For some time before his death Mr. Chatto had been at work on a new catalogue: he proposed to prepare an author catalogue, with, I presume, a list of subjects, much on the lines of those previously issued. As none of this was in print on my taking charge of the library, and feeling, as I did, that a subject-catalogue would be the most useful one for the readers, I resolved to begin afresh, and re-catalogue the library.

The catalogue in course of preparation is in one alphabet, authors and subjects. The titles under subjects are repeated as many times as necessary, but are not given with the same fulness as in the author entry: for instance, a book which it is necessary to enter under several subjects has only that part of its title given which relates to the subject under which it is entered, care always being taken that the main title is given with sufficient fulness that there can be no difficulty in identifying the book.

The contents of the journals are not given: to have done this without a large staff would have been impossible, and further it has already been so well done in the catalogue of the Surgeon General's Library, that it would be a waste of labour and of money to print the material over again. Many reprints of important papers are, however, sent to the Library, and these are all catalogued, so that a large number of papers from journals and transactions are really included in the catalogue.

Dr. Billings' catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Library is now generally admitted to be one of the best, if not *the* best, catalogue we have; it will therefore, perhaps, not be out of place if I state one or two ways in which I have not followed this excellent guide. In the first place I have not given the name of the publisher or the number of pages in each book: for an ordinary working catalogue this, I think, takes up too much space and does not, so far as I can

see, give any corresponding advantage. Under the subject heading the entries will be arranged in chronological instead of alphabetical order. Working often with the Surgeon-General's catalogue has strongly impressed me with the superiority of this method. In Dr. Billings' catalogue the entries under subjects are arranged alphabetically, and if the most recent books are wanted, it is necessary to go through 4 or 5 columns of titles to get the information required, whereas if the arrangement were chronological it would be possible, by beginning at the end of the list, to get the same information with very much less labour and expenditure of time. The only difficulty which has presented itself is the arrangement of books whose editions range over a considerable period. With modern books it seems best to place all under the date of the last edition; it would greatly add to the space required, and also to the cost of printing, if each edition were set out in its place and, moreover, there is an obvious convenience in being able to see all editions of the same book at a glance. With books published previously to the beginning of the present century I propose doing exactly the reverse, that is to say, the editions of any book originally issued before 1800 will all be found under the date of the earliest edition we possess. This is absolutely necessary, or we should have Hippocrates appearing as a 19th century author.

The catalogue is being prepared on cards; these are kept in a cabinet at the west end of the reading room, and are available for use by the readers. When the work is finished the cards will form the copy for the printer.

The alterations made in the Library during the summer of 1888 seemed a good opportunity for partly re-arranging the books. One great object I had in view was to place the journals and transactions in a more accessible form than had hitherto prevailed. The journals were mixed on the shelves with other books, and in some instances the sets themselves were scattered in different places. To carry out my plan it was necessary to remove all the books from the reading room, so that the shelves might be available for the journals and transactions. The books were moved into the new part of the building, and now occupy the upper and lower rooms in the extension.

The shelves in the reading room are now arranged as follows. Starting in the S.E. corner we begin with journals and transactions dealing generally with Medicine and Surgery: these are arranged in countries, and occupy cases 82-95. Then from case 96 to 109 are journals, &c. devoted to special subjects, in the following order—

Diseases of Women and Children, Pathology, Nervous and Mental Diseases, Journals relating to Special Organs, Dermatology and Syphilis, Therapeutics, and Biology. In the two next cases is a Collection of encyclopædias, dictionaries and books of reference.

The shelves in the windows being narrower than the rest of the room, are allotted to University Calendars and to sets of journals of small size.

The ground floor of the reading room did not give sufficient space for the whole of the journals. I have therefore placed the principal scientific academies, together with some completed journals which are not in much request, in the gallery and basement.

The current numbers of the journals are displayed on tables down the middle of the reading room: four of these are fitted with sliding trays, in which books too large for the wall cases, and illustrated works still in progress, and which therefore cannot be bound, are kept. The new books are placed on a special case in the centre of the room; these are catalogued directly they are received, and are at once available for readers. A list of the additions is posted in the Library.

The state of the bindings in the Library is not as good as could be wished. This is being gradually remedied by re-binding; half morocco, buckram and vellum cloth, being the materials used. In a report made to the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London in 1854, Dr. Letheby spoke of the great damage done to bindings in this Library by gas. Gas, no doubt, has very much to answer for, but I cannot help feeling that it is sometimes made the scapegoat for imperfect ventilation, for over-heated rooms and for bad material. In his "Enemies of Books," Mr. Blades, writing of gas, says: "No one who loves his books should allow a single jet in his library unless, indeed, he can afford a 'sun-light,' which is the form in which it is used in some public libraries, when the whole of the fumes are carried at once into the open air." If Mr. Blades had seen the mischief caused here by the sun-lights, he would, I am sure, in a future edition, omit his saving clause, and condemn this mode of lighting as much as any other. It was a very common experience to find the books on tables under the sun-burners spotted with dirty water, formed by condensation in the tubes and dropped down from thence. When there was a high wind the soot accumulated in the sun-lights was blown down, covering everything in the room. For some of the cases of rotten bindings in this Library I feel sure that some cause other than gas must be looked for. There are several examples in the Library which will

illustrate this. Many of these books have been kept at no great height from the floor, and in a room where the amount of gas used has not been sufficient to account for the bad state of the binding. My own opinion is that the binder has, in many instances, used an utterly unsuitable and improper material. The books were ordered to be bound in half morocco and were paid for as such; had good morocco been used I feel sure these volumes would be practically in as good a condition now as when they were bound. Instead of morocco an inferior Persian goat skin has been used, and the result is that the books must be rebound.

The Library being strictly professional does not contain many bibliographical curiosities. There are some Manuscripts of John Hunter, including a series of letters to Jenner, the MS. of the latter's original paper on the Cow Pox is also in the Library. A large number of books were bought from the library of Sir Anthony Carlisle, who was a constant supporter of the College Library. Sir Anthony must have been a lover of books, as nearly all those now belonging to the College, which were originally in his possession, have some note in them, referring either to their rarity or to some peculiarity in the particular copy. Mr. Briggs, the translator of Scarpa, and the first chairman of the library committee, also deserves special mention for his efforts in putting the Library on a sound footing.

Amongst the rare books may be mentioned a fine copy of the scarce first edition of Celsus, published in 1478; the first edition of Galen, "*Therapeuticorum libri xiv*," *Venetii*, 1500; of Hippocrates, "*Opera Omnia* (Græce)," *Venetii*, 1526; Aselli, "*De lactibus*," 1627, with the four coloured woodcuts—the earliest anatomical coloured illustrations, and a book of great rarity. Harvey's "*Anatomical Exercitationes concerning the generation of living creatures*," 1653. Mr. Hazlitt says of this book that 150 copies were printed, and of these 115 were destroyed. All the copies I have been able to examine are, with the exception of the two in this Library, on thick rough paper. The College copies are both printed on fine paper: one is a very poor one, and has no portrait; the other is a fine copy, and has the portrait. Mr. Wallis, of Exeter, at whose sale the latter copy was purchased, made many inquiries about the book, and told me he could not find another fine paper copy. There is in the Library a copy of "*Approued Medicines and Cordiall Receiptes*," by Thomas Newton, 1580. The interesting part of this particular copy is that it has the signature "*W^m Shakespeare*" on the title-page, and many notes through the book in the same handwriting. The volume came

from the Library of W. H. Ireland, and the writing is part of his Shakesperean forgeries.

From the Heber Library there is the "Tractatus Magistri Arnaldi de Villa nova de arte cognoscendi venena cum quis timet sibi ea ministrari," said by Brunet to have been printed from type used at Mantua in 1473.

Bound up with this is "Tractatus de Venenis a Magro Petro de Abbano editus," 1475.

There is a copy of Wolveridge's "Speculum Matricis," 1671, in the Library. It is not quite complete; the missing pages being supplied in MS. This and the one in the Radford Library, at Manchester, are the only two copies I can trace. In the Bodleian there is a copy dated 1670; this has a different title-page—"Speculum matricis Hybernicum," and is, as far as I know, unique. There is no difference between the 1670 and 1671 copies except as regards the title.¹

The large illustrated works on Zoology, Anatomy, &c., are well represented in the Library. Many of the copies of the works of surgeons of this century are interesting from the fact that they are presentation copies from the authors, and bear an autograph inscription to that effect. In some instances, too, we have the author's own copy, with MS. additions and corrections.

The collection of portraits is extensive, and contains the "Wadd" and "Young" Collections. The former of these was originally put together by Fauntleroy, the forger. After it passed into Mr. Wadd's hands he issued a catalogue of it, with biographical notices, under the title of "Nugæ Chirurgicæ," a very inaccurate and unreliable book.

The Library is open each week day to Members of the College, from eleven A.M. to six P.M., except on Saturday, when it is closed at one P.M. During the month of September the Library is closed.

Members have the privilege of personally introducing a visitor.

Persons, not members, desirous of admission, must make application in writing to the President or to the Chairman of the Library Committee, specifying their Christian and surnames, rank or profession, and residence; which application must be accompanied by a recommendation from a Member, that a ticket may be granted to the applicant. In the case of students the application must be accompanied by a recommendation signed by two of their teachers, members of the College.

Tickets of admission, which are not transferable, are granted for six months, at the expiration of which time application must be made for their renewal.

J. B. BAILEY.

¹ See *Athenæum*, November 17th, 1888.

The Tōkō Library.

ALTHOUGH a library in the modern acceptation of the term had no existence in Japan till the time of Restoration in 1868, yet it is nevertheless true that in the rudimentary stage they existed in every Hean (a territory of a feudal lord). In addition to the old university a school, or rather a college, was attached to each Hean—a focus, as it were, of learning in that territory. In every one of these schools was a collection of books for the use of the teaching-staff and pupils. In each of the larger towns, too, was found at least two or three houses which had a large assortment of books, mostly consisting of light literature and historical works popularly treated. These could be taken out and kept for a fixed period by paying a certain sum, which varied according to the quality of the books. These houses still have their existence—in Tōkyō alone, there now being 59 houses,—but are gradually being superseded by libraries based on European or American models.

When the feudal system was abolished in 1871, the books kept in each territory were either withdrawn to the central government or given to schools then newly established. The Tōkyō library, on its establishment in 1872, received a portion of these books, and began its career on this slender basis.

The lecture-hall of the old university already referred to was temporarily furnished for the library, and the building, though lacking in convenience, could easily accommodate as many as 500 readers. The number of readers has steadily increased, so that in 1884 it reached the total of 115,986, averaging 359 persons per open day.

Up to that time the library was open, free, to all classes; but, as may be imagined, unscrupulous readers were found to occupy it to so large an extent as to hinder the serious students from availing themselves fully of the advantages the institution afforded.

Accordingly, in 1885, a fee-system was begun and, at the same time, numbers of books, mostly consisting of works of light literature, were withdrawn from the reading-room. These two facts put an effective check upon a certain class of readers, whose main object was to spend leisure hours otherwise than in study.

The number of readers soon decreased, but an improvement in their quality was distinctly observable.

A desire to regain the old university building for its original purpose, coupled with the growing inconvenience already mentioned,

resulted in the erection of a new three-storeyed brick building within the compound of the Tōkyō educational museum, and the library was removed thereto in 1886.

It now contains 253,132 volumes—215,988 in the Japanese and Chinese languages, and 37,144 volumes in European languages; exclusive of periodicals. In addition to books that are ordered from England, Germany and America, in bi-annual consignments, the library has the right, according to the publication regulations, to receive a copy of every book, paper, &c., published. The increase from this source alone is about 5,000 volumes per annum.

In periodical literature we have all of the prominent daily and weekly papers and monthly magazines published in Japan, together with some English, German and American weekly and monthly journals. The reading-room is, therefore, amply provided with this class of literature.

It now accommodates about 200 readers. It is divided into three compartments, viz. "special," "ladies" and "ordinary," for the accommodation of the holders of the tickets bearing these names. The difference between special and ordinary ticket-holders consists in the former having the privilege of borrowing seven volumes at a time, while to the latter only three volumes are allowed. The fee charged for an ordinary ticket is 2 sen (about 1d.), and for the special, 3 sen more—with a reduction when a ten-day ticket is paid for in advance.

We have, at present, two sets of catalogues—'card' catalogues and ordinary classified ones, having full indices and cross references. In order that the reading-room shall be open every day throughout the year,—impossible at present, owing to the annual examination which lasts seven days,—'case' catalogues are now in course of compilation, which, when finished, will do away with an inconvenience now unavoidable.

We have last year organized a subscription system, which allows the subscribers, on payment of 57 en (about £1) per annum, to take books out of the library for a term of ten days, subject to a renewal should the subscriber so desire.

S. TEGIMA,
Director: Tōkyō Library.



Caxtoniana. I.

SINCE the publication of Mr. Blades' *Life and Typography of William Caxton*, 2 vols., 4to., 1863, some five-and-twenty or thirty of the "Caxtons" then known to exist in private libraries have changed owners; and during the same period about as many more whose hiding places were then unknown (in some cases even to their respective owners), have come to light and been sold by public auction. I have endeavoured in the following notes to bring down as accurately as possible to present date as much information as could be collected on this subject, adding at the same time some few memoranda—more or less interesting—which have from time to time occurred to me during a tolerably careful and frequent use of the very valuable work above-mentioned.

1. *The Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye*.—Mr. Hibbert's copy, sold in 1829, was described as having "six whole leaves and parts of four others supplied in *fac*." and this description was repeated in Wilks' catalogue when the same copy was sold again in 1847 to Mr. Utterson: but at Utterson's sale (1852) it appeared as wanting no less than forty-seven leaves, viz., twenty-seven in the first book, one in the second, and nineteen in the third, and was sold for £55 (not £155 as stated by Mr. Blades). Only one copy has since occurred for sale, viz., that of the Earl of Jersey, in 1885, when Mr. Quaritch bought it for £1,820. One, unknown until after the appearance of Mr. Blades' work, has been discovered by Dr. Munk in the library of the College of Physicians, and a full description by the late Mr. B. R. Wheatley is given in the catalogue.—(See also N. & Q., 3rd S. IV., 307).

2. *The Game and Playe of the Chesse*.—(1st Edition). The "White Knights" copy, sold for £42, was found on collation after the sale to want *three* leaves instead of only two as stated in the catalogue; it was therefore returned, and resold for £36 15s. (to the Duke of Devonshire). Only three copies appear to have changed hands since the sale of Lord Audley's copy in 1855, viz., (1) Mr. Bankes' copy (formerly Bishop Wynne's) wanting seven leaves, viz., the first, two in the 4th *Tractate*, and four others as described by Mr. Quaritch (Cat., 1871-3. No. 5246). (2) Lord Petre's, perfect excepting only the two blanks, bought by Mr. Quaritch, in 1886, for £645; and (3) the Earl of Hardwicke's,

wanting the Prologe and three other leaves, also bought by Mr. Q. (£260). The two last were unknown to Mr. Blades.

3. *Les Quatre derrenières choses à Aduenir*.—This was quite unknown until 1841, when Mr. Winter Jones discovered it in the British Museum Library, and was supposed to be unique until a second copy came to light in 1884, when it was bought by Mr. Quaritch for £200 at Sotheby's. Mr. Jones gave a very elaborate description of it in *Archæologia*, Vol. XXXI, but although he gave the first and last few words of every leaf, he unfortunately did not take the trouble to ascertain whether the verso of each leaf was immediately connected with the recto of the next, and, having no signatures to guide him, assumed that it was perfect; nor was the mistake ever discovered until about five years ago, when I examined it very carefully and found that it wanted the 67th leaf, showing that instead of 72 leaves, the last only being blank, there should be 74, of which the *first and last* are blank. Mr. Jones had assumed that the work consisted of nine 4ns, whereas the fifth section had ten leaves instead of only eight, and this was confirmed by Mr. Quaritch's copy, which, although defective in some other respects—having several leaves damaged, besides wanting 12 and 17—was particularly interesting from the fact of its being in the original binding and *uncut*, with the MS signatures still visible.

4. *Lefevre's History of Jason* (translated by Caxton). Dibdin, with his usual carelessness, says, that "Caxton himself tells us that this was his third printed work." Caxton tells us nothing of the kind, his words (quoted by Dibdin in support of the above assertion) are: "Whan I had parfourned and accomplished diuers werkys and hystories translated out of frensshe into Englysshe . . . as thystorye of the recuyel of Troye, the book of the chesse, the hystorye of Iason," &c., which certainly does not imply that this was the third book that he *printed*. In fact, it may rather be said that it certainly was not.

5. *The Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers*. (1st ed.) Four sales recorded since 1863, viz., (1) Corser in 1868, £110; (2) C. H. Craufurd (the same copy), in 1876, with the last three leaves in *facs.*, £87; (3) Earl Jersey (bound with the "Moral Proverbs"), 1885, £141; and (4) Duke of Buccleugh, March, 1889, £650.

5. *Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*. (1st ed.) A copy not recorded by Mr. Blades was sold in 1820, at a supplementary sale of books from "White Knights," merely described in the catalogue as "imperfect" (£31 10s., T. Payne).

7. *Boecius de Consolacione Philosophie* (translated by Chaucer).

The Duke of Hamilton's copy (*perfect*, but stained and mended), was bought by Mr. Quaritch in 1884 for £160. The Earl of Westmoreland's (*perfect*, excepting the blank) in 1887 for £156. See *Athenæum*, July 28th, 1883, for an account of the copy lately discovered at Colchester, formerly belonging to Archbishop Harsnet.

8. *Cordiale, or the Four last Things*. Dr. Valpy of Reading, had a copy for which he is said to have given £87. At the sale of his library in 1832 (not recorded by Mr. Blades), it was bought by H. G. Bohn for £26 15s. 6d.

9. *Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers* (2nd ed.) The Chatsworth copy, bought at Towneley's sale in 1814 for £189, and wanting A 8, was erroneously called in the catalogue "first edition."

10. *The Mirrour of the World* (1st. ed.) Earl Jersey's copy, perfect, but much cut down, was sold in 1885 for £195 to Mr. Quaritch, who had in the preceding year given £335 for Sir John Thorold's, which was also perfect, excepting only the blanks. In 1888 the Earl of Hardwicke's, very imperfect (wanting altogether 19 leaves), was sold for £60 (Quaritch). Some fragments of *Tully*, viz. sigs. *a* and *b* of *De Amicitia*, followed by sig. *c* of *De Senectute*, were bound with it. Mr. Quaritch had one for sale in 1877, with A vi, A viii, and the last leaf in *facs.*, price £200.

11. *Tully, Old Age, &c.* There was a copy of the "*De Amicitia*" in the Harleian Library (Bibl. Harl. V, 1668), not mentioned by Mr. Blades, which must have had the Declamation of Noblesse also, since it had the *Colophon* (f viii). The sales since 1863 are (1) Corser, 1868, "*Old Age*" only, £96; (2) Earl of Jersey, 1885, perfect, £350 (both bought by Quaritch); (3) Mr. Severne, 1886, perfect, £250 (Ellis); (4) Earl of Crawford, June, 1889, perfect, £320.

12. *The Game and Play of the Chesse* (2nd ed.). Mr. Blades recorded in 1863 nine copies, to which must be added (10) Mr. Huth, with A 8 in *facs.*, otherwise perfect, bought of Messrs. Sotheran in 1868, and (11) Lord Tollemache (exhibited at the Caxton Commemoration in 1877).

13. *The Cronicles of England* (1st ed.) Mr. Blades records nine copies; (10) British Museum, a very poor copy, dirty, and much cut down, wanting four whole leaves and parts of several others (sigs. *r* and *s* transposed by the binder), bought at the sale of Mr. Rainy's library at Bath in 1883 for £160. (11) Duke of Buccleugh, in 1889, perfect, bought by Quaritch for £470.

14. *The Description of Britayn*. The Duke of Buccleugh's, made up from two imperfect copies, with some of the leaves inlaid, but otherwise complete, sold in 1889 for £195 (Quaritch).

15. *Godfrey of Boloyne*. The only sale recorded since 1676 is that of Dr. Vincent's copy in 1816, bought by Dr. Singer for £215; according to Mr. Blades the real purchaser was the Marquis of Blandford, but although Singer did occasionally buy for him, I think Mr. B. must be mistaken in this instance, as there was no copy in the "White Knights" sale. Mr. Holford's and that in the British Museum were the only known perfect copies until 1884, when Mr. Quaritch announced in his catalogue (No. 21842) a "very fine copy, quite perfect with all blanks, and in the original binding," £1000 (? can this have been Dr. Vincent's copy).

16. *Cronicles of Englonde* (2nd ed.). The Earl of Jersey's copy, imperfect (as described by Mr. Blades) was sold in 1885 for £40. The Duke of Buccleugh's, in 1889, wrongly described in the catalogue as wanting only "14 leaves of which two are blank," whereas it not only wanted the first 14 printed leaves as well as the 2 blanks, but also the last 6, *i.e.* 20 leaves without reckoning blanks, was bought by Mr. Quaritch for £45.

17. *Higden's Polycricon*. The "White Knights" copy, which seems to have escaped the notice of Mr. Blades, was bought by T. Payne for £94 10s., "a fine copy, in 2 vols., green morocco," now in the Grenville collection. Since 1863, no less than ten sales have occurred, *viz.* (1) Lord Charlemont's in 1865, wanting only 2 leaves, £477 (Walford). (2) T. Edwards' in 1871, wanting 7 leaves, £34 (Quaritch). (3) H. Perkins' in 1873, perfect, £365 (Quaritch). (4) 1874, Sir W. Tite's (with A 2, 3, 4, 8, in *facs.*) £150 (Ellis). (5) Earl of Aylesford's 1888, (Edward's copy) with 7 leaves in *facs.*, 10 mounted, and a few others mended, £110 (Quaritch). (6) Fr. Perkin's 1889, very imperfect, £24, the other four (Earl of Jersey's in 1885, £66; *anon.* in 1884, bought in at £86, and again in Nov. of the same year at £50; N. P. Simes in 1886, £30; and Earl of Crawford's in 1889, £33), were mere fragments.

18. *The Pylgremage of the Soul*. The Marquis of Blandford's copy, sold for £152 6s., had the "Art & Craft to know well to die" bound with it. According to Mr. Blades, it was bought by Earl Spencer, who made it perfect with three leaves from another, already imperfect, which was afterwards sold with other duplicates from the Althorp Library, in 1821, for £26 15s. 6d. But in his description of the copy now at Althorp, he merely says it was "Ratcliffe's copy," without any mention of the "Art & Craft."

19. *Gower's Confessio Amantis*. The "White Knights" copy, sold as "remarkably fine and perfect," was found to want *six leaves*, it was consequently returned and re-sold (to G. W. Taylor) for

£131 5s., the former price having been £205 16s. Sales since 1863 (1) Lord Selsey (perfect) in 1872, for £670, and now the property of Baron James Rothschild. (2) H. Perkins (6 leaves in *fac.*) in 1873, for £245 to Mr. Quaritch, who in a very recent catalogue describes the same copy as wanting only *one* leaf. (3) G. L. Way (wanting 10 leaves) in 1881, sold for £77. (4) Earl of Jersey (perfect, with all the blanks) in 1885, for £810. [This same copy was bought by Francis Child in 1756 for *three pounds*].

20. *The Book whiche the Knyght of the Toure made.* Mr. Corser's copy, bought at the "White Knights" sale in 1819, by G. W. Taylor for 81 guineas, and by Corser, in 1843, at Jolley's sale for £90, was sold in 1868 for £560 (Quaritch).

F. NORGATE.

(To be Continued.)



Notes on Swedish Libraries.

THE *Kungliga Svenska Riks Bibliothek* has its home in a modern building, beautifully situated in an old park of considerable extent, known as the *Humlegården*, at Stockholm. The library is designed to contain as complete a collection as possible of Swedish literature, supplemented by the most important scientific and literary works published in foreign countries. Until the autumn of 1877, the *Riks Bibliothek* was kept in the Royal Palace. At that time it contained about 200,000 volumes, a large collection of pamphlets, considerable collections of maps and engravings, and nearly 8,000 MSS. The library is in two great divisions—the Swedish and the foreign. The Swedish ordinance, relating to the freedom of the press, requires that a copy of everything printed in Sweden shall be supplied to each of the two university libraries and to the library at Stockholm. Dr. G. E. Klemming, the librarian of the *Riks Bibliothek*, and his staff, are ever on the alert to see that the deposits are duly made to the library at Stockholm. For 1886, nearly everything has been received. Of the accessions for 1887, there were 12,791 numbers—books, pamphlets, periodicals, and maps—belonged to the Swedish section, and 879 distinct works, consisting of 1055 volumes and parts of volumes, and 264 pamphlets.¹

The *Riks Bibliothek* contains two very inferior copies of the first book printed in Icelandic—the New Testament, translated by Oddur Gottskálksson, and published in 1540, at Roeskilde, the old capital of Denmark. This book is only found in a fragmentary state in Iceland. It has recently been the good fortune of the authorities of the Copenhagen University Library to acquire an absolutely perfect and clean copy of this valuable work. This copy was obtained for the sum of 25 Danish crowns (about £1 7s. 6d.) Its market value is, of course, many times greater than the sum paid for it. The book was in Iceland down to about 1820, but nothing is known of its subsequent history, until it was discovered in the house of a Zealand peasant, not far distant from Copenhagen.

The Royal Swedish Academy Library contains a most extensive collection of works treating of the natural sciences of Sweden.

An effort was made in 1886 to secure by co-operation the prepara-

¹ For the material for this paragraph the writer acknowledges indebtedness to a notice in *The Nation*, of the *Handlingar*, vol. X, and of the *Accessions Katalog*, vol. II (1887).

tion and publication of a yearly catalogue, in which should be indicated the books acquired by the principal libraries in Sweden. As the result of conferences a plan was formulated and carried into effect. The first volume was published by the Royal Library authorities early in 1887. This was edited by Mr. Erik Wilhelm Dahlgren, one of the officers, and contained the titles of all the books printed outside of Sweden, which were added in 1887 to seven libraries—the Royal, the two Universities, the Royal Swedish Academy, the Medical-Surgical Institute at Stockholm, the Academy of Belles Lettres, History and Antiquities, and the General Staff of the Army. The second volume—that for 1887—is contained in the *Handlingar*, recently issued, and is published separately as well as in this form. This volume of the “Accessions-Katalog” was compiled upon the same plan as the initial volume, but the additions to eight more libraries—fifteen in all—are included, among them being the libraries of the Swedish Parliament and two art institutions in Stockholm. This publication is undoubtedly valuable in Sweden, but its value abroad would be enhanced if the Sweden printed books were included. “An annual catalogue of Swedish literature, published by authority, would be very valuable, not only for present use, but for future reference. The Royal Library, whose Swedish division is almost perfect, is well equipped for the production of a work similar to the annual catalogue of Norwegian books, issued by the University of Norway, and it would be an act of graceful liberality upon the part of the Swedish Government, and but a well deserved recognition of Mr. Dahlgren’s competent services, if such annual appropriations were made for this work as would enable him to include each year the titles of all publications produced in Sweden.”

J. P. BRISCOE.



New Books.

A digest of the law relating to Public Libraries and Museums and Literary and Scientific Institutions... By George F. Chambers, Barrister-at-Law. Third edition. London : Stevens & Sons, 1889. 1a. 8vo, pp. viii. 175. Price

The title of the volume before us goes on to promise "much practical information useful to managers, committees, and officers of all classes of associations and clubs connected with literature, science and art." To us, however, it appears that whatever may be the value of Mr. Chambers' book to the lawyer, it is hardly calculated to be of much practical use or interest to the librarian or the member of a library committee. They will only find themselves bewildered by the complicated divisions of the books, and parts and chapters, in which the writer treats of the limited amount of law existing upon a subject, which has only been legislated upon in very modern times. It illustrates, indeed, the piece-meal and slipshod character of much of our legislation that, moderate as is the total bulk of the statute law upon the subject of free public libraries, it has required no less than sixteen acts of parliament to express it. The last of them indeed has been so recently passed, that Mr. Chambers has been unable to include it in his book. The fact is that it is almost impossible to write a really satisfactory and useful treatise on the acts, until they have been rescued from their present slovenly condition by a proper consolidating act. Such a measure was, indeed, passed for Scotland in 1887. The number of cases that have arisen upon the construction of these acts is not large, and the bulk of the present work consists of a mass of miscellaneous materials "relating to all kinds of institutions connected with literature, science and art," including the Literary and Scientific Institutions Act, 1854, the Mortmain Acts, the Companies, the Land Clauses Acts, &c., &c. There are also a number of precedents of formal documents, bye-laws and regulations, which may be useful now and then, but make a very arid and uninviting compilation. But the amount of really "practical information" seems to us to be small ; while the writer's knowledge of library history is not very full, for he regards the Parochial Libraries Act of 1708 as "the earliest statute directly designed to promote a taste for books amongst the masses," whereas, as the Act itself shows, it was not designed for any such purpose but was intended "as a provision for the clergy." The writer's "Part II." on "official documents," reminds us of the famous chapter on the snakes of Ireland, for he observes "there are no materials available to be ranked under the term 'official documents.'" He has not even mentioned the returns of free public libraries in operation made to the House of Commons, the last of which was ordered to be printed in 1877.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Free Library Legislation.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS AMENDMENT ACTS, 1889 (52 Vict. ch. 9).

This short Act is a valuable and important aid to the establishment of libraries in towns and districts, where the rateable value is not large enough to both establish and adequately support a well-equipped library. We print its provisions in full.

Repeal of
18 & 19 Vict.
c. 70, s. 13,
and pro-
visions in
lieu thereof.

1. Section thirteen of the Public Libraries Act, 1855, shall be repealed, and in place thereof the following provisions shall have effect.

The expenses of calling and holding the meeting of the ratepayers, whether the Public Libraries Acts shall be adopted or not, and the expenses of carrying those Acts into execution in any parish, to such amount as shall be from time to time sanctioned by the vestry, shall be paid out of a rate to be raised with and as part of the poor rate; provided that every person assessed to such rate in respect of lands used as arable, meadow, or pasture ground only, or as woodlands or market gardens, or nursery grounds, shall be entitled to an allowance of two-thirds of the sum assessed upon him in respect of such lands for such expenses; the vestry to be called for the purpose of sanctioning the amount shall be convened in the manner usual in the parish; and the amount for the time being proposed to be raised for such expenses shall be expressed in the notice convening the vestry, and shall be paid, according to the order of the vestry, to such person as shall be appointed by the Commissioners to receive the same: Provided also, that in the notices requiring the payment of the rate there shall be stated the proportion which the amount to be thereby raised for the purposes of the said Acts shall bear to the total amount of the rate.

Proviso as to
rate made
before pass-
ing of Act.

2. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to invalidate any rate made prior to the passing thereof, and any expenses, to which section thirteen of the Public Libraries Act, 1855, applied, may be paid out of any such rate as if this Act had not passed.

Joint library
for several
parishes.

3. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners separately appointed under the Public Libraries (England) Acts, 1855 to 1887, for any two or more adjoining parishes, with the consent of the vestries of such parishes, from time to time to agree to share in such proportions and for such period as may be determined by the agreement, the cost of the purchase, erection, repair, and maintenance of any library building situate in one of such parishes, and also the cost of the purchase of books, periodicals, and newspapers for such library, and all other expenses connected with the same; and the inhabitants of both or all the said parishes, as the case may be, shall be entitled to use the said library so long as the agreement shall continue in force.

And any such agreement may provide that, upon its termination, an adjustment shall be made of the interests of the several Commissioners in the library, building, books, and other property to which they have contributed, and as to the mode in which such adjustment shall be arrived at.

Obituary.

SIR JAMES ALLANSON PICTON, F.S.A.

On the 15th of July, full of years, much honoured, in the midst of work, and in complete possession of his faculties, Sir James Allanson Picton, father of the Liverpool Free Libraries, was suddenly called to his rest. Those members of the Library Association who attended the annual

meeting held in Liverpool in 1884, will remember with what ability he presided over the sittings, and with what interest and anxiety, to insure success, he entered into all the arrangements whether of business or pleasure.

He was born on December 2nd, 1805, in Leeds Street, a part of Liverpool which presented a pleasanter appearance then, than it does now. His parents were by no means well to do, but of considerable energy and natural ability, both of which characteristics have distinguished their son all through life. Sir James was essentially a self-educated and a self-made man. His early education was obtained in a private school of some repute in Liverpool, kept by a Mr. Prior. Here he acquired a fair knowledge of Latin and mathematics, but that higher and wider education, usually sought for in some college or great public school, he had to endeavour to secure by the more toilsome methods of private study and tuition in later life. The failure of his father as a timber merchant, for whom he acted as clerk, led him as a youth, without prospects, to enter the office of Mr. Daniel Stewart, architect and surveyor. Here he gave evidence of that energy and ability, which was his principal inheritance from his parents, and which eventually enabled him to succeed to the business of his employer. As a land surveyor and valuer, Sir James attained high rank, and was at one time much employed by several of the great railway and insurance companies, from whom no doubt he reaped much of that golden harvest, which afterwards enabled him to devote so much of his time to literary and antiquarian pursuits, and that work of loving enthusiasm—the development of the Liverpool Free Libraries.

In 1850, Sir James succeeded in inducing the Town Council "to inquire into and report upon the propriety of establishing a free public library in the town of Liverpool." The report was favourable, and in October, 1852, under a special act, entitled "An Act to establish a public library, museum, and gallery of arts at Liverpool," the second of the modern free public libraries in England was opened. How far this comprehensive title has been realized under Sir James' long and active chairmanship, those who are acquainted with the institutions in William Brown Street, can best judge.

In 1875, a large extension of the library and museum buildings, erected by the generosity of Sir William Brown, was begun; and the large circular reading room, opened in 1879, was called, by resolution of the Town Council, the Picton Reading Room, in recognition of the long and valuable services of Sir James in connexion with the institutions under his care. In 1881 he received the honour of knighthood, as a further recognition of these services, and of his labours generally in the cause of education. Sir James was exceedingly liberal and broad in his views, the result no doubt of his wide and varied reading. And if it was not profound on any subject, it was usually more than superficial; his clear logical mind, good memory and fluent utterance, always enabling him to speak with knowledge, and to command attention. Even on subjects which he had not made conspicuously his own, he would frequently create surprise by his evident careful and digested reading. His knowledge of books was rather that of the student than of the bibliophile. With him such things as edition, printer, size, and place of publication, were comparatively unimportant matters. As a rule he viewed later and corrected editions as of far more value than scarce first editions, and he was about the last man to give a fancy price for a book, on account of matters usually held dear by the book-hunter. In 1875, Sir James published his "Memorials of Liverpool," in 2 vols. 8vo, an historical and topographical work, which was very favourably reviewed. In 1883-6 appeared two quarto volumes, entitled "Municipal Records," consisting of extracts from the minutes of the Liverpool Town Council,

with notes exhibiting much antiquarian research. Another local antiquarian work, now in the press, has unhappily been interrupted by his death.

As a member of the British Archaeological Society, the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society, of which he was elected president twice; the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, the Liverpool Architectural Society, and several other societies, he wrote numerous papers, many of which attracted considerable attention on account of the original and weighty views they advanced. His literary ability was considerable, for he wrote with comparative ease, and his style was smooth, terse and vigorous. He was a ready speaker and good debater, and his extensive knowledge of local matters made him a useful and valued member of the City Council. As a magistrate, his clear judicial mind enabled him to discharge his duties on the bench with considerable credit.

Sir James will be much missed in Liverpool, where he was held in great respect and esteem. He was full of local patriotism, and thought no time or trouble too great to devote to the interests of his native city, and, in connexion with the Free Libraries in particular, his loss is almost irreparable.

MR. FRANZ THIMM.

Mr. Franz Thimm, the well-known foreign bookseller, of Brook Street, died on July 6, aged 69. He settled in this country in 1839, and in the course of years made a name not only as an intelligent and accomplished bookseller, but as the compiler of many books of value and utility, the chief being his works on Shakspearian bibliography. He was also an authority on Goëthe literature, and it will be remembered that his collection of books on this subject was acquired, only a few months ago, by the Goëthe Society at Manchester.

New Public Library, Chelsea.

As we have previously intimated, the Chelsea Public Libraries Commissioners are about to erect a new central library building, upon a site in Manresa Road (known as an artists' colony), given for the purpose by Earl Cadogan. The commissioners have now selected, in competition, a design prepared by Mr. J. M. Brydon, F.R.I.B.A., of which the following is a brief description.

The front elevation in red brick with stone dressings, is intended to harmonize, in some degree, with the new portion of the Chelsea Town Hall, and is in that English renaissance style, known as "Queen Anne," for which Chelsea has a reputation. The main entrance to the building, is marked by a handsome portico upon four columns, leading into a short but wide hall, within the extreme length (30 ft.) of which are to be found the approaches to all the public departments. The boys' reading room, which the commissioners consider a desirable feature, after the success attending similar rooms in the Manchester Free Libraries, is immediately to the right on entering, and is well under control from the counter of the Lending Library which adjoins. This Lending Library, with its surrounding gallery, is designed to accommodate 30,000 volumes, has ample counter space for an indicator, representing a similar number of volumes, and good accommodation for borrowers, who enter by one large swing door and leave by another.

To the left, upon entering the building, is a large reading room for ladies, and facing the entrance is a news-room, 17 feet high, intended to hold 216 readers, in an area of 3,240 square feet, or 15 feet to each person. A portion of this room will probably be set apart as a magazine room, and perhaps for fiction and other light reading. Adjoining the

entrance to this room, is the staircase, wide and well-lighted, which leads direct to the Reference Library on the first floor. In this Reference department it is intended to accommodate some 80 readers in a room lighted by a window at each end, and a dome light on the roof. Surrounding this room is a gallery for 9,000 volumes. Extensive book stores are in rear, easy of access for the attendants, and at 8 volumes to the square foot will accommodate 60,000 volumes. Additional book stores are also provided in rooms leading from the gallery, but it will be many years hence before these are needed. Book stores are again arranged for in the basement, from which a lift ascends to both lending and reference libraries. The usual board, storage, unpacking, and work rooms, have all been provided in convenient places. A commodious and handsome residence for the librarian, and a residence for the caretaker also are included. Special attention is paid to the important matters of heating and ventilation, but the lighting is still under consideration, with a view to adopting electricity.

The cost of the building completed ready for occupation, is estimated at £10,000, a very modest sum, considering the extent of ground covered, and the accommodation provided. The aim of the architect has been towards a simple yet dignified public building, in every way adapted to its purpose, without meretricious ornament, but at the same time a not altogether unworthy addition to the "Village of Palaces," and its great literary reputation.

Collection of Library Rate.

The Chelsea Guardians, who are the rating authority in the parish, having deducted over £150 from the library rate to pay for the cost of collecting it, the Libraries Commissioners petitioned the Metropolitan District Auditor of the Local Government Board to disallow the charge. He has decided that there is no statutory provision under the Libraries Acts to make such a charge, and surcharged the amount upon the Guardians. The library rate usually gives library committees a scant enough income, without having it further curtailed to pay clerks and rate collectors an excessive commission. Luckily, the 1889 Act will abolish all such charges.

Library Notes and News.

BRENTFORD.—The Free Libraries Acts were unanimously adopted at a public meeting of ratepayers on June 19th.

BUXTON.—The new Town Hall at Buxton was opened by the Marquis of Hartington on June 26th. The building includes a Free Library, with a reading room 40 ft. by 25 ft.

CAMBRIDGE.—Professor Robertson Smith has given notice to the Senate that the University Librarianship will be vacant on October 1. He has recently been elected to the Sir Thomas Adams' Professorship of Arabic in the room of the late Dr. William Wright. Two candidates have issued circulars to the electors (the members of the Senate), namely Mr. F. H. Jenkinson, of Trinity College, the editor of Henry Bradshaw's Papers, and one of his most devoted disciples, and Mr. J. W. Clark, formerly Librarian of Trinity College, and Superintendent of the Museums. A numerous committee has been formed to further Mr. Jenkinson's election.

CARDIFF.—Mr. John Shepherd, of the Rochdale Free Library, has been appointed Assistant Librarian of the Cardiff Free Library.

DARLSTON.—The workmen of Mr. Enoch Horton's Nut and Bolt Works have subscribed £50 to the fund for liquidating the debt on the Free Library, but Mr. Horton has announced his intention to return the subscriptions to his workpeople, and to contribute the amount himself.

DONCASTER.—The new building for the Free Library was opened with some ceremony on June 20th. The foundation stone was laid on June 21st last year.

EDINBURGH: PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The Reference Department now contains 15,210 volumes, and the Lending Department 31,009 volumes, making a total of 46,219. Arrangements for the opening of the library will shortly be made.

LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY.—During a recent visit of some of the Members of the Cambrian Archæological Society, the literary treasures of Welsh printed books were examined by them. Among these were Welsh Bibles, dated 1588, 1620, perfect, the edition of 1588 being the first printed translation from the Hebrew by Bishop Morgan, and a Prayer Book in Welsh of 1599, having on the cover the arms of Archbishop Bancroft. It was customary, as seen in the registers of some of the earlier Archbishops, for them to visit Wales, and many interesting particulars are brought out by a perusal of these ecclesiastical surveys. There are also transcripts of MSS. relating to Wales in this famous library which seem to be very little known. The library is open daily (Saturdays excepted) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and in the summer months until 5 p.m.

LIVERPOOL.—On Friday, June the 28th, a very pleasing event took place in the Central Free Library. The well-known and highly esteemed Chief Librarian of the Liverpool Free Public Libraries, Mr. Peter Cowell, celebrated on that day his Silver Wedding—and the past and present members of his staff availed themselves of the opportunity to testify to the excellent feeling which exists between themselves and Mr. Cowell, by presenting him with a beautiful cabinet, containing a liqueur stand, and a set of games bearing a suitable inscription. The presentation was made by the sub-librarian, Mr. Thomas Formby, supported by Mr. J. Collister, Mr. Walter Huntley, and the other members of the staff. Many letters and telegrams were received from absent well-wishers. We heartily congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Cowell on the happy event, and earnestly hope that 25 years hence *The Library* may record their Golden Wedding.

MANCHESTER.—The collection of books by or relating to Thomas Fuller, brought together by the late Mr. John Eglington Bailey, the biographer of Fuller, has been purchased by Messrs. Taylor, Garnett & Co., the proprietors of the "Manchester Guardian," and presented by them to the Manchester Free Library. In addition to the writings of the author of the "Worthies of England," there are books by other authors bearing the same surname, and a considerable number of portraits, views, drawings, &c., illustrating the life of the famous divine. Not the least interesting part of the collection is Mr. Bailey's own copy of his "Life of Fuller," replete with manuscript notes, extracts in print, maps, &c., collected with a view to a new edition.

NEWARK.—On page 241 it was stated that the Gilstrap Free Library, at Newark, was opened on 24th May. It was the Newark Castle Public Garden, in the grounds of which the library is situated, that was opened on that day. The library has been in existence several years.

NOTTINGHAM.—A new reading room, making the eleventh branch, was opened at Nottingham on July 5. It is situated in the district of Carrington.

OXFORD: EXETER COLLEGE.—The late Dr. Edersheim's library of Hebrew and modern theological books has been presented to this College by his widow.

SALTNEY: CHESTER.—On June 20th, Mrs. Verburgh, wife of the M.P. for Chester, laid the foundation stone of a new library and reading-room in connection with the Literary Institute at Saltney. The proceedings were opened by the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, rector of Hawarden, who delivered an address.

YORK.—The North Eastern Railway Company opened, on July 4th, a new reading room and library at York, for their employes, in place of previous premises which had become unsuitable.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Barrow-in-Furness. Sixth Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library, Barrow-in-Furness, 1887-9. pp. 18.

This report includes a period of nineteen months only (from Sept., 1887, to March, 1889,) so that the Corporation financial year and the Library year may come to a close together. There are now 2,153 vols. in the reference library, 1,677 have been added to the lending department, which now numbers 12,793 vols.; 28,200 vols. were issued in the reference department, being an average of 58 vols. on each of the 483 days it was open. From the lending department 170,544 vols. were circulated, being an average of 360 vols. on each of the 473 days books were issued; in addition, 2,780 unbound magazines have been lent out. At stock-taking every volume was satisfactorily accounted for. It is claimed that fiction only forms 51 per cent. During week ending Mar. 23, 1889, 490 females and 8,098 males entered the library. No financial statement is given, but in the "General Summary" appears:—*Receipts for Lavatory* ... £1 13s. 5d.! Mr. John Frowde is the librarian.

Battersea Public Libraries. Second Annual Report, 1888-9. pp. 18.

During the year the first lending library has been opened at Lammas Hall, which will form one of the permanent branches. Here are 5,357 vols., and between Nov. 1, 1888, and May 31, 1889, 46,403 vols. were issued, being a daily average of 262 vols. The Lammas Hall and Latchmere Reading Rooms are well attended. The penny rate realized £2,450. Total receipts, excluding loans, £2,492 16s. 4d. The secretary and librarian is Mr. Lawrence Inkster.

Birmingham Library. Annual Meeting, report and proceedings, 1889. pp. 8.

The extension of premises authorised in 1887 has been completed at a cost of about £1,000. 1344 vols. have been added to the library by purchase. There are 1,539 members, whose subscriptions amount to £1,701. Total receipts £2,551 1s. 6d., which includes £170 18s. balance due to the bank. The committee have tried to improve the lighting of the library, but it has not been possible to arrange for an installation of the electric light yet. They have introduced provisionally the "Butzke" lamp, but at present they have not had experience enough of these lamps to report definitely upon them. Mr. C. E. Scarse is librarian.

Burnley. Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Burnley Mechanics' Institute, 1888. . . . pp. 50.

The number of vols. in the library is now 14,674, an addition of 616, costing £85, having been purchased during the year. The issues are

less than usual, but this was caused by the closing of the library during the alterations, when a new room was added. The directors, recognizing the importance of the library department, have arranged that in future it shall be open continuously from 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. 36,187 vols. were issued. No separate balance sheet for the library is issued. In the report is an account of the other departments, and a short history of the institute which was established in 1834. Its first aim was the dissemination of useful knowledge amongst the operative mechanics and other inhabitants. This was to be attained or furthered by a library containing books of history, science and art, travel, philosophy, etc., but *no novels, plays, or polemical philosophy!* Mr. T. Hartley is librarian.

Chester. Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee of the Chester Free Public Library, 1888-9. pp. 11.

In August a handsome reading room, the gift of Wm. Brown, Esq., was opened. Nearly 900 readers now attend daily. The "Cotgreave" Indicator is used. 153 vols. have been added to the lending library, and 68 to the reference library, raising the number of vols. to 13,273. The reference library has been closed since April for alterations. 52,685 vols. have been issued, making a daily average of 142, being an increase of 2,130 vols. on the previous year. The rate of 1d. in the £. produced £674 4s. 3d. The total receipts for the year, £969 19s. 6d., include a balance of £241 8s. 2d. Mr. Thomas M. Wilcock is librarian.

Deptford Library and Club. (Messrs. Fredk. Braby & Co., Limited.) Nineteenth Annual Report, 1888-9, pp. 23.

There are 3,040 vols. in the library, exclusive of duplicates and odd volumes; 190 vols. were added by gift, and 99 vols. (including replacements) by purchase; 1,559 vols. lent for home reading, an increase of 150 vols. The borrowers are not limited to time in the keeping of a book. Every facility is afforded to the student. A list of some books wanted to complete sets is given. The income was £110 6s. 1½d. Very interesting information is given respecting the club's work. Mr. G. R. Humphery is librarian and honorary secretary to the club.

Ealing Free Public Library. Sixth Annual Report of the Committee, 1888-9. pp. 16.

The library has been transferred to new premises, which were opened by the Prince of Wales on Dec. 15, 1888. 45 vols. have been added to the lending library—total 6,195 vols.; and 38 vols. to the reference library—total 949 vols. 107,806 vols. (a daily average of 495) have been issued during the year with a loss of 3. Major-General Collinson reports that 73 students attended the Science and Art classes; of those examined in May, 1888, 62 passed and 7 won prizes. The 1d. rate produced £501; total receipts, including balances brought forward, being £828 19s. 6d. Mr. Thos. Bonner is librarian and secretary.

Hanley Public Free Library. Second Annual Report, 1888-9. pp. 27.

The committee report the addition, by gift and purchase, of many valuable works. There are 5,498 vols. in the lending department, against 4,407 last year, and in the reference department 1,982 against 1,920. Issues in the lending department were 64,427 as against 87,745. The supply of popular works being insufficient for the demand, is the reason given for the decrease. Daily average attendance (counted) was 469 as against 465 last year. The Science and Art classes were attended by 158 persons, 99 were examined, and 62 passed. The new laboratory has been

completed, and is fitted up for 30 students. The cost (£255) has been defrayed by voluntary contributions, without encroaching on the penny rate. The penny rate realised £630, total receipts (excluding subscriptions for laboratory) £1224 1s. 4d. Mr. W. A. Taylor resigned the post of librarian, and was succeeded by Mr. A. J. Milward of the Hulme branch of the Manchester Free Libraries.

The Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the BANK OF ENGLAND Library and Literary Institution, 1889, 8vo, pp. 20.

This excellent and carefully prepared statement of a year's work contains a new and interesting feature in the shape of a table, showing the progress of the library, from its foundation in 1850 to the present time. In 1850 the members numbered 1608, in 1875 they had dropped to 471, and this year the list contains 537 names. But while the membership and income have thus, for various reasons, fluctuated and even diminished, it is satisfactory to notice that the issues have increased from 30,000, the average of the first 20 years, to 40,000 for 1888-9. The loose ethical code which sways ordinary mortals in the matter of books and umbrellas is apparently not unknown among the otherwise irreproachable officials of our national banking house, for 116 volumes are reported "missing," and, as the report says, "it is especially unsatisfactory to know that the books have been taken from the lobby without any notice to the assistant librarian." A list of the missing volumes has been distributed, and sixteen have been returned—*anonymously*, of course. A short list of the more important additions to the library is given, and members are reminded of older possessions of topical interest—*e.g.*, that the library contains a set of the *Journal de Paris* from 1789 to 1804—covering the Revolution period. We quite agree with the committee that the list of members should coincide with that of the Bank staff, and should think the circulation of this report would do much to bring about so desirable a result.

Correspondence.

ERRATUM.

SIR,—In *The Library* for June, p. 214, "Turn-over of Libraries," I find by a clerical error the amount of the turn-over for Birmingham, in 1801-2, was credited to 1866. By this latter period the figure had already declined to 87. Perhaps I might add that these matters were commented on by "Statistic," in *Kensington News*, 13 Oct. 1888, and by "Plus Ultra," in *St. James's Gazette*, 7 Nov. 1888.

OWEN ROE.



The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

President:

RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester.

Hon. Treasurer:

HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

Hon. Secretaries:

J. Y. W. MACALISTER,
53, Berners Street, W.

ERNEST C. THOMAS,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1889.

The preliminary circular (signed by the President, the Earl of Crawford, Lord Charles Bruce, Sir John Lubbock, Sir Reginald Hanson, Mr. E. A. Bond, Mr. E. Maunde Thompson and the Hon. Secretaries) which was sent to the London members and to a large number of gentlemen interested in literature and libraries, inviting them to co-operate in giving a welcome to the provincial members, has resulted in a very encouraging subscription list and the formation of a representative and influential reception committee. It has been found necessary to alter the date of the meeting, and it is now arranged to be held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of October. Messrs. J. B. Bailey and D. W. Douthwaite have been appointed Hon. Local Secretaries, and to them should be addressed (at the Library, Gray's Inn) all communications having reference to the arrangements for the meeting. The Hon. Treasurers are Mr. H. R. Tedder, librarian, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S.W., and Mr. Charles Welch, librarian, the Guildhall, E.C., to both of whom subscriptions for the Reception Fund may be sent.

In consequence of the change in the date of the Annual Meeting, Papers may now be sent in up to September the 16th. Papers sent in by September the 1st, and accepted, will be printed, and copies of them will be supplied to the authors before the Meeting. Papers and all communications concerning them should be sent to the hon. secretaries of the Association.

The next Examination is fixed for October 15th.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 6a, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Printed for the Publisher, by J. DAVY & SONS, at the DRYDEN PRESS, 137, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The Library.

A Day's Reading in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.¹

PROBABLY a day's reading in the Mitchell Library may be regarded as having many features in common with a day's reading in any other library of similar size and character, and should prove of interest to all who concern themselves in the literary culture of their fellow citizens. To know the intellectual pursuits or recreations of a city's inhabitants should always be of the highest importance to those whose life-work lies amongst them, and to all whose fortunes and general well-being are bound up with the intellectual growth, and commercial prosperity, of the city. The bald statement that so many volumes were issued in theology and philosophy, so many in biography, so many in science and art, and so on, conveys little idea of anything beyond the mere figures to the ordinary reader. I therefore propose to dissect or analyse a single day's reading in the library, to show exactly its real nature and extent, and the actual books, authors or subjects consulted. Of course it is only for one day, but that may be taken broadly as representative of other days, or indeed as typical of the general class of literature commonly read in the Mitchell Library. On some days certain subjects will be less represented than on others, sometimes not at all, and there is always something new turning up. Indeed, taking into account any considerable period, it is observed that books have been asked for on nearly every conceivable subject.

For the purpose of analysis I have selected the issue of books on January 21st, 1888, which, with a total of 1,925 vols., is by no means the highest in the history of the Library, as many as 2,395 vols. having been handed over the counter in a single day, while a total of 2,000 has been reached again and again.

In submitting the facts brought out by this analysis, showing the quantity and quality of the matter read on that particular day, I have, contrary to custom, and reversing the usual order of the library classification, commenced with Miscellaneous Literature and

¹ Read before the Library Association at Glasgow, August, 1888.

Prose Fiction, divisions of a lighter nature, and finished with weightier topics, such as Theology and Philosophy. The class known as "Miscellaneous," is perhaps as difficult to define and sub-divide as anything in the whole range of bibliography. The sub-classification adopted in this paper must indeed be reckoned as handy rather than scientific, especially as applied to the class "Miscellaneous," which comprises, as all librarians know, every book which cannot with consistency be referred to any more definite class. A writer in the *Quarterly*, many years ago, characterised the classing of books as "Miscellaneous," as a method of procedure just as scientific as that of a botanist, who, doubtful of the class of a particular plant, should place it among "weeds." There is always a residuum of such "weeds," in nearly every class of literature with which this paper deals, and where these are dealt with in small groups apart from, or at the end of the sub-divisions of the main classes to which they belong, I do not wish to be understood as criticising their merits, but merely as having adopted this plan as the only alternative to naming each book or subject individually. Altogether in this Miscellaneous class there were issued 407 vols., which are roughly sub-divided as follows.

MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE.

Newspapers. There were 88 references made to the back files of daily and weekly newspapers. The principal "dailies" stand in the following order of popularity, the figures denoting the number of times each file was consulted—*London Times*, 10; *Glasgow Herald*, 9; *Glasgow Daily Mail*, 9; *Scotsman*, 7; *Scottish Leader*, 7; *Freeman's Journal*, 7. The Glasgow evening papers—*News*, 12; *Times*, 9; *Citizen*, 8.

Weeklies. The four leading pictorial papers represented in the library stand thus—*Illustrated London News*, 33 vols.; *Graphic*, 19; *Harper's Weekly*, 12; *Pictorial World*, 12. Our file of the *Graphic* is very incomplete, most of the volumes being worn out, and more difficult to replace than the *Illustrated London News*, otherwise the issue of the *Graphic* would probably have been at least equal to that of its rival. Apropos of the illustrated papers, it is fashionable to sneer at their use in our great public libraries, but I fancy it is much better that young Glasgow, or indeed the youth of any great city, should be found poring over the pages of *Punch* or the *Graphic* than lounging idly at the street corners. There is a certain educative influence unconsciously at work, in even turning over the leaves and looking upon the pictures of these serials, which

in time creates a desire for something better. And so, the refining process once begun, is carried on and on to higher things. The whole tone of a man's being, moral and intellectual, has often been raised to the finer issues of artistic and literary culture from such simple beginnings. In the issue of bound volumes of weekly periodicals, *Punch* takes the lead with 20 volumes, closely followed by *Scottish Nights* with 14, *People's Friend*, 10, and *Quiz*, 8. Other "weeklies" consulted were *Broad Arrow*, *Era*, *Saturday Review*, and *Spectator*.

Monthlies. Thirty-two volumes of "monthlies" were taken out by 24 readers, no fewer than 15 volumes, or almost one-half, being of *Chambers's Journal*, a flattering testimony to the long continued public favour which that pioneer of popular periodical literature has enjoyed. Next in demand were *Scribner*, *Harper*, *Century* and *Atlantic Monthly*, curiously enough, all American magazines, a result not to be wondered at, however, when we consider the attractive force of the illustrations, and the excellence of the literary matter. Some of the leading British "monthlies" were also represented.

Encyclopædias. There were 17 vols. of Encyclopædias consulted, in the following order—*Britannica*, 11; *Chambers*, 4; and the *Popular*, 2, distributed among 13 readers.

General and Miscellaneous. Three Glaswegians read Max O'Rell's *John Bull and his Island*, notwithstanding his rather unflattering account, in another of his works, of their native city. Our local humourist of *The Bailie*, Jeems Kaye, was also called for three times, by as many readers, while Artemus Ward and Mark Twain only score three readers between them. Of tales, sketches, literary miscellanies, volumes of epitaphs, anecdotes, and popular readings by such compilers as Carpenter and Leo Ross, 20 volumes were issued.

Almost defying classification, I note that 15 volumes of various almanacs were taken out, and 17 on culture and self-improvement, 8 of these being of *Cassell's Popular Educator*. A volume on surnames had attraction for one reader, while another sought profit in the perusal of Sell's *Philosophy of Advertising*. Bibliography is represented by Anderson's *Book of British Topography*, and, by a rather free use of the term, the *Pall Mall Gazette* extra on the "Best Hundred Books" might possibly be included. Other 69 volumes, consulted by 40 readers, almost defy classification. Forty-six are chiefly of a literary nature, such as Knight's *Half-hours with the Best Authors*, Froude's *Short Studies*, Carlyle's *Sartor Resartus*, and *Miscellaneous Essays*, Clifford's *Essays*, Coleridge's *Essays*, and sundry other essays of a critical, philosophical, historical, or literary

character, with 18 volumes of the collected works of such authors as Fielding, Hogg, Johnson, Lytton, Rabelais, and Richardson, two books on school management, Cope's *Tobacco Plant*, a Concordance to Shakespeare, and Poole's *Index to Periodical Literature*.

PROSE FICTION.

In prose fiction the day's reading was only 167 volumes by 148 readers, or a little over 8 per cent. of the whole issue. In all fairness, however, the small amount of fiction consumed must not altogether be attributed to Glasgow's dislike to such pabulum, but rather to the short supply which we have on hand. The Committee of Management have always taken the view that the limited space and means at their disposal would be with greater advantage devoted to the public in other ways than in the purchase of fiction. What fiction we possess is chiefly composed of gifts. The three most popular novelists seem to be Marryat, who is represented by 21 volumes, Scott coming second with 20, and Dickens making a close third with 18. Five of Marryat's novels: *Dog Fiend*, *Frank Mildmay*, *Peter Simple*, *Phantom Ship*, and *Midshipman Easy*, were each taken by three different readers; Scott's *Ivanhoe*, and *Redgauntlet*, were each issued three times, while six of Dickens's novels were each read by two different people. Of the works of Fenimore Cooper, Lord Lytton, and Charles Kingsley, 6 volumes by each author were read, 5 of Charles Lever's, 4 of Thackeray's, 3 of William Black's, and 2 each of the following authors—George Eliot, Victor Hugo, Thomas Hughes, Samuel Lover, and Miss Yonge.

Probably the most charming trinity of books for young readers in the whole realm of literature is the Arabian Nights, Gulliver's Travels, and Robinson Crusoe. Each of these was sought by three youthful students. Eleven volumes of Fairy Tales, by Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen, and others, were devoured; and, in addition, there were read 22 volumes by nearly as many authors, such as Fielding, Goldsmith, Hawthorne, Blackmore, George MacDonald, Hood, Mrs. Oliphant, and others.

LANGUAGE.

In the department of language, only some two dozen books were issued to 22 readers. This unusually small number was made up by 1 volume on the science of language, 4 on English composition, 2 English grammars, a book on etymology, 5 works on the French language, including dictionaries; and dictionaries and lexicons in the following languages—1 Greek, 2 Hebrew, 2 Latin, 1 Spanish (Technological), and Morrison's Chinese Dictionary.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA.

The total day's issue in poetry and the drama was 132 volumes. Placing English poetry first, we have a miscellaneous lot of 15 volumes, such as sundry selections, early English ballads and songs, poetical recreations, and a few volumes of Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*. Taking individual poets and dramatists, the poetry and drama of the golden age is worthily represented by Dryden, 3 volumes; Marlowe, 1; Pope, 2; Spenser, 7; Shakespeare, 3; with 4 volumes of Shakespearian criticism; and Wycherley, 1—in all 21 volumes. The honour of modern English poetry is sustained by Browning, Byron, Keats, Hood, Lytton, Rossetti, Swinburne, Wordsworth, and even "the Poet" Close—in all 13 volumes, perused by as many readers. For a wonder, Tennyson was not asked for once.

Irish Poetry. Irish poetry or, at least, poetry by natives of Ireland, is meagrely represented by 3 volumes, 1 by Goldsmith, 1 by Sheridan, and a collection of "National Songs and Ballads of Ireland," edited by Davies, a work so much run upon, that at last one reader ran off with it and forgot to return it.

Classic Poetry. The classic poetry of the ancients was confined to the reading of Virgil, 3 volumes; Sophocles, 2, and 1 each of Horace, Propertius and Tibullus.

Continental Poetry. A volume of French poetical selections, 1 of Schiller, and 1 of Dante, represent respectively the sum total of French, German and Italian poetry.

Scottish Poetry. Scottish Poetry, I need scarcely say, holds a much more favoured position. Indeed it is remarkable that while only 63 volumes of English, Irish, Classic and Continental poetry were consulted, and, very singularly, no reference at all made to American poetry, as many as 69 volumes of Scottish poetry alone were issued. One reason for this may be the presence of the "Poet's Corner," in the Mitchell Library, a special collection of over 5,000 volumes of Scottish poetry and verse. There is no other such extensive collection known, and the use made of it is sufficient justification for its existence. Nearly every Scotsman is supposed to have attempted to write poetry at some period of his life; many, unfortunately, have also published it, and all read it more or less. Indeed, the only introduction to the knowledge of literature possible to thousands of poor Scottish lads, is the richly imaginative lyric and ballad lore of their native land. The native, often nameless, bards of the land of mountain, mist and cataract, have left a golden heritage of song that is as dear to the heart of every Scotsman, as the land of his birth. All those things combined may account for the Scottish predilection for poetry.

Of course, Burns with 40 volumes and 19 readers, tops the poll. I must note, however, that the date happens to be near that memorable day in the Scottish calendar, when

"A blast o' Janwar win',
Blew hanel in on Robin"—

Doubtless these readers were priming themselves for that eventful evening, on which a more potent element is popularly supposed to be the fruitful source of their post-prandial inspiration. Seven volumes of Sir Walter Scott's Poetical Works were issued to five readers, and 22 by Dunbar, Ossian, Tannahill, Thomson, Park, and others, including a dozen chiefly made up of old ballads and sundry collections of Scottish poetry.

SCIENCE AND ART.

Science and Art form a most important and interesting class, including as it does such various and diverse subjects as the Fine Arts, the Industrial Arts, Chemistry, Medicine, Mechanics, Engineering, Mathematics, Botany, Geology, and much else. I have not attempted a strictly scientific classification, but have just adopted the common sense method of allowing all books on the same or related subjects to fall into natural groups. The number of volumes issued during this one day in this division was 504.

Art. Commencing with Fine Art, 89 volumes were issued, distributed as follows: 5 of the *Art Journal*, 6 of *L'Art*, and 6 of other art periodicals and annuals. Painting and sculpture were represented by 11 volumes, while references were made to 10 on the study of plan, map, inventive, and decorative drawing. Architecture was reviewed in 7 volumes, and 8 served for decorative design, dress, and ornament. There were, in addition, 36 treating on Art generally, caricature, etching and photography, with a number of books of engravings.

Music. The study of the art of Music contributed 31 volumes to the day's issue, consulted by 27 readers. Of these, 20 dealt with music generally, and with the history and theory of music. There were 6 volumes consulted on the violin, 3 on the organ, and one each on the flute, and the harmonium. Hart's book on the violin was asked for and issued three times.

Chemistry. A total of 30 volumes indicates the extent of chemical research for the day, including works on Chemistry, theoretical and practical, organic and inorganic, with notes, questions and problems in chemistry, dictionaries of chemistry, and chemical philosophy.

Medicine. In the medical group were dispensed 54 volumes to 29 readers. In family and domestic medicine our old friend Buchan

turns up again, being evidently held in equal esteem with the more modern labourers in the same field, Tanner, and Wood, each of the three having been consulted twice. *The Family Physician* and Graham's *Domestic Medicine* were also issued. The study of physiology, represented by 14 volumes, seems to show an intelligent and healthy interest in the nature and structure of the human body. Twelve volumes were read on anatomy, surgery, and therapeutics, with 6 of local, and other medical journals, and one ambulance handbook. The interests of general health were attended to in 3 volumes, while solutions to the vexed questions of vaccination and smallpox were sought for in six vols. The claims of hydropathy and homœopathy were evenly balanced, two enquiring students attending to each. The brain was dissected in 4 volumes, and anthropology and the evolution of man were discussed in double that number of volumes.

Natural Philosophy. In general physics and its branches, dynamics, electricity, electro-dynamics, heat, magnetism, etc., there were applications for no fewer than 36 volumes by 32 readers. The most popular books were Blaikie's *Dynamics*, issued 4 times; Thomson and Tait's *Natural Philosophy*, issued 3 times; and Tyndall's *Heat*, 3 times.

Mathematics. Arithmetic is accounted for by 8 volumes, and book-keeping by 3, geometry and mensuration by 6, while the study of algebra seems a favourite one as testified by the fact that 18 volumes were issued on that subject. It is a splendid tribute to the reputation of Todhunter's *Algebra*, that the two copies in the library were issued 12 times. The other six volumes on the subject are divided among the following five authors: Chrystal, Haddon, Hall, Smith, and Tate. Algebra is followed by trigonometry with 9 volumes, principally by Todhunter, and Smith; while astronomy, horology and ballooning, are linked together with 7 volumes to the three subjects.

Steam Engine. Six readers had out six works on the steam engine, and 12 others consulted 19 volumes closely related, on engineering subjects, chiefly marine and railway, including Reed's *Engineers' Handbook*, which was applied for five times.

Mechanics. Mechanics, applied mechanics, workshop appliances, and a number of technical works on machinery aptly follow engineering with 17 volumes and 16 readers. Printing and lithography show 9 volumes by 6 readers, two of them being ladies.

Shorthand. A very respectable evidence of the progress of shorthand is given when we mention that 14 volumes of Pitman's phonographic books were used by 11 students.

Botany. Nine volumes were consulted, and only six individuals interested themselves in the subject.

Geology. Geology, including the allied topics of mineralogy, fuel and coal, iron and steel, fares slightly better than botany, with 13 volumes and 9 readers.

Natural History. Natural history, including 9 volumes on ornithology, gives a total of 25 volumes, consulted by 19 readers.

General Science. Eighteen volumes were issued on the history of science, scientific research, and on the progress of scientific knowledge.

Amusements, Games, Sports, etc. Twenty-seven volumes were given out on a group of subjects ranging from parlour amusements to field sports, including bagatelle, billiards, conjuring, draughts, cycling, horsemanship, gymnastics, and football; curiously enough cricket is conspicuous by its absence.

Miscellaneous. The total interest or curiosity shown in the affairs of the army, navy, railways, and tramways, was manifested by seven readers who consulted 8 volumes. The science of heraldry was a matter of concern to five readers, who made reference to 7 volumes, while the less savoury but more practical subject of plumbing and house drainage was a source of attraction to four. Besides these there were also issued 30 volumes to 28 readers, on the following subjects:—Elocution, 5; cookery, 3; sugar growing and refining, 2; palmistry, 2; weaving, 2; bookbinding, 1; dairy farming, 1; French polishing, 1; physiognomy, 1; baking, 1; gold working, 1; manuals for workers in various kinds of metals, 6; on water and water supply, 1; and 1 volume each on oils, varnishes, gloves and lighthouses.

LAW, POLITICS, ECONOMICS, SOCIOLOGY, ETC.

This class is represented by 125 volumes issued to 58 readers. The knowledge of Politics, Economics, Sociology, etc., in common with that of languages, by the mass of mankind is regarded generally as a luxury, without which it is quite possible to jog along through life pretty comfortably. Add to this the fact that the study of these subjects is considered rather dry and uninteresting, and we find a reason for the small number of books issued in these departments, as compared with those in History and Biography, the Arts and Sciences, or, even in Theology and Philosophy.

Here, as in other places, the Irish Question and Home Rule, *pro* and *con* come well to the front, and, with a few volumes on the Census, and others on Statistics, make a creditable appearance of 52 volumes. There were 9 books applied for on Parliament and Parliamentary

Procedure, Government, and Politics, 2 on the Tariff Question, 3 on Police and the law of Tramways, and 6 on the legal aspects of the Army and Civil Service. While Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* was out only once, Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*, was out 3 times. The claims of Monarchy and Democracy were evenly balanced with 1 volume each. Crime, as represented by the Newgate Calendar in 2 volumes, had its antidote in the form of 4 volumes on Education. Fifteen volumes were handled by an almost equal number (14) of students, on the Labour Question, Bimetallism, the Temperance Movement, Investments, and several other themes. Twenty Calendars of the Universities of London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Cambridge, and Glasgow, were examined, and 6 volumes on purely sociological subjects.

BIOGRAPHY, TOPOGRAPHY, HISTORY, VOYAGES AND TRAVELS, ETC.

In this division there were handed over the counter in the course of the day 319 volumes.

Ancient History. Ancient History and Biography come first with 27 volumes:—Livy, 9; Herodotus, 7; Caesar, 5; Thucydides, 3; Plutarch, 2; and Xenophon, 1. Modern History followed, commencing with Scotland.

Scotland. General histories of Scotland were issued 8 times, the favourite being Sir Walter Scott's. Eleven volumes on the Highland clans, and the rebellions were read, and 3 on the unfortunate Mary Stuart. County and local histories from Moray in the North to Galloway in the South, including 2 relating to Edinburgh, 2 to Linlithgow, 1 to Paisley, and 7 volumes concerning the city of Glasgow, together with 6 works of a miscellaneous nature on various Scottish subjects, making in all 48 volumes.

English History. English History and Topography were represented by 9 volumes, a Guide to Devonshire, and a brace of books on the City of London; while as many as 11 works recording the daring deeds of the British Army and Navy by land and sea, were perused by 7 readers.

Ireland. The condition of the Irish people, the lives of their patriots, the history of the Parnell movement, and of the landed gentry of Ireland, are all discussed in the 7 volumes consulted by 6 readers.

Europe. On matters pertaining to the Continent there were issued 10 volumes on European history generally, and 10 on Paris and France, with 9 more on the Franco-German and Russo-Turkish wars. Cassell's *Franco-German War* was taken out 4 times by as

many readers. Eleven works were consulted regarding Belgium and Holland, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece.

America. Books of history, sport, travel, adventure, etc., relating to America, were issued to the number of 26, 17 treating of the Northern and 9 of the Southern of the twin continents.

Africa. Africa, besides being a happy hunting field for the sportsman, explorer, diamond seeker, gold digger, ostrich farmer, missionary, merchant, and military swash-buckler, seems to possess a peculiar charm for those who stay at home and only derive their impressions of the dark continent from missionaries, explorers, and Mr. Rider Haggard. Twenty-four volumes of travel and hunting experiences were read, the two favourite books being Stanley's *How I found Livingstone* and Cumming's *Five Years of a Hunter's Life in South Africa*, each of which was out three times.

Asia. References were made to 5 volumes on India and on the stirring scenes of the Indian mutiny, 2 on Palestine, and 3 on the Celestial Empire, with 8 additional volumes on various other countries of the Asiatic continent.

New Zealand and Australia can boast of only 4 volumes between them, an unusually small number, as the demand for books of information on these and our other colonial dependencies is generally considerable.

A miscellaneous lot of 40 vols. completes the record of books asked for in this department. Nine of these were volumes of general travel and adventure from Maori-land to Madagascar, and 10 of voyages, including 2 on the cruise of the Challenger, and 3 on the Polar Seas. There were also 5 atlases and gazetteers, and 16 directories, 4 referring to Scotland, 3 to London, 3 to Glasgow, 2 to Dublin, 1 each for Liverpool and Edinburgh, 1 Continental, and 1 Universal Directory.

Biography. The day's reading in biography, 60 volumes to 35 readers, resolves itself into the following rough classification. Six volumes on the reformers, and other theological worthies, such as Luther, Calvin and Fox; while royalties are represented by 14, dealing with celebrities like Napoleon I (4), Frederick the Great (3), Peter the Great (1), Charles II (1), Marie Antoinette (3), and our own Queen Victoria (2). Soldiers and statesmen naturally follow with 13 volumes, including two lives of George Washington, and one of President Grant. Literary and scientific biography in 22 volumes comprises such representative names as Byron (3), Darwin (6), George Eliot (3), Swift, Voltaire, and Thomas Paine. There were 5 additional volumes of artistic, musical, and miscellaneous biography.

THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY.

Theology and Philosophy with an issue of 247 volumes for the day, shows indisputably that the Scotsman, if he does not indeed take his pleasures sadly, at least affords some excuse for the supposition, when he prefers his reading to be of such a solemn and heavy character, as that shewn in these figures.

Old Testament. To begin with the Old Testament, there were issued 1 Concordance to the Bible, 2 Bible Dictionaries, and 7 Commentaries on the whole Bible, or on the Old Testament only. Ten volumes of commentaries on Genesis, 3 on Joshua, 7 on Kings, and 1 on Samuel were also given out. The Psalms appear in a neck and neck race for popularity with Spurgeon, Lange, and old Matthew Henry, each scoring 1 volume. There were also 6 volumes on Biblical research and Scripture characters.

New Testament. Four volumes were asked for bearing on the New Testament generally, 3 on the Greek text, and 6 volumes on the Gospels; while St. Matthew was specially favoured by an issue of 14 volumes by various learned commentators. St. Luke, St. John, and the Acts of the Apostles were equally represented by 2 volumes each, and Corinthians 3 volumes, by the theologians Godet, Edwards, and Robertson; Conybeare and Howson's *Life and Epistles of St. Paul* by 6 issues. The study of Peter and Timothy was confined to 1 volume each, and the mystical lore of the Apocalypse as expounded by Bleek, Milligan, Hengstenberg, and Swedenborg, provided attractions for 2 readers with 2 volumes each.

Lives of Christ. Of the various lives of Jesus Christ 12 volumes were issued, Farrar's being most in demand.

Parables. Of the 10 volumes consulted on the parables, Guthrie was issued 5 times, Bruce and Trench twice each, and Arnot once.

Sermons. Nine volumes of religious periodicals were asked for, and 13 volumes of sermons, if not read, were at least judiciously sampled by 9 readers. The history of the Church of Scotland was discussed in 3 volumes, and that of the Church of England in 2, while the dis-establishment of both was settled in 1 volume each. A mixed lot of 32 volumes were disposed of, dealing with a great variety of theological, religious, doctrinal, speculative, and other debatable subjects in the realm of biblical literature, ranging from Greg's *Creed of Christendom* to Samuel Clarke's *Immortality of the Soul*, and comprising works on Christian Communism, Divine Government, Mary the Mother of Jesus, the Human Body after Death, Newman's *Apologia*, Predestination, and Eternity.

Philosophy. The public demands for works in general philosophy,

were 1 dictionary, 1 history, and 1 vocabulary of philosophy, with 20 other volumes, the principal being Plato, 7 volumes; Reid, 3; Spinoza, 2; and Seneca 2.

Logic. Various readers disposed of 4 volumes on logic by Aristotle, Mill, and Veitch, and 13 volumes on metaphysics by Sir William Hamilton, and Dean Mansell, 8 volumes by the former and 5 by the latter. Martineau's *Ethics* was issued 4 times, and Sidgwick's and Leslie Stephen's once each. Another half-dozen volumes on Mind and Brain, the Human Intellect, Locke's *Essay on the Human Understanding*, and kindred subjects were consulted by five people. And lastly, a group of 13 volumes was studied by ten readers. It includes 3 works on spiritualism, 4 on phrenology, and sundry treatises on mesmerism, animal-magnetism, magic, and demonology.

This closes the analysis of the 1,925 volumes, which were read by 1,011 persons—of whom, by the way, 146 were Mac Something or other—but does not exhaust the record of the day's reading. To all this must be added the perusal of nearly 300 periodicals, on a wide and catholic range of subjects, which lie on the tables of the reading-room. The number of references made to these is estimated to be nearly equal to the number of volumes issued over the counter. It is then found that the record of "A Day's Reading in the Mitchell Library," besides being of interest to the statist, and to students of humanity, as reflected in the favourite books, consulted for study or for recreation, of a representative class of readers; is also a proof that this institution is a wonderfully potent factor for good in a great and growing community like Glasgow.

I might further add before closing, that if there were funds there is room for half-a-dozen such institutions, distributed among the different centres of population in the city, each doing as noble a work. Only, however, by the adoption of the Free Libraries Acts can this be hoped for. Were the Acts adopted every citizen would be enabled, at the most trifling cost, not only to consult books in reference libraries, but to have the books of his choice to read at his own fireside.

JOHN INGRAM.



The Duty of Governments to provide the People with easily accessible Books.¹

IT is not the object of this Paper to discuss the principles, the machinery, or the accidents of government. By government I mean the responsible authorities, be they imperial, departmental, or local.

I do not apprehend that I need use any very profound argument to prove my case. The right of government to interfere in this matter is admitted by the establishment of an educational department, the maintenance of some national libraries, and the providing of compulsory elementary education. But they have stopped short of providing the tools, whereby the workmen are to work out the problems of industry, invention and commerce, by which the vitality of this country is to be maintained. They have given an elementary form of education to the workman, and then said: "now you must look after yourself." We have universities for those who can afford to pay and give their time. We have high-class schools for the middle classes; and by a modern process we have added to those the charity schools, which in former generations belonged to the poor only; and we leave to the doubtful vote of a locality the provision of that which should be provided with the most absolute certainty.

The local vote is largely influenced by the breeches pocket politicians, and those who believe their success lies in the ignorance of their fellows, the former looking upon reading as a pleasant pastime, and upon books as only written to occupy idle hours.

We are essentially a commercial people, and live by our ingenuity, cleverness, industry, and perseverance. With the exception of the last, and even that to some extent, these qualities are formed, cultivated and developed, by education. The higher the education, the more successful will be the workmen, foremen, directors, employers or merchants. The constant cry now is, that we are being beaten by other nations. It is not for me to say here what I think of the cry itself. For the purposes of my argument I will assume it is true. Using hard names to our opponents will not alter the case. It must be by sound educational improvement; each one contributing his share, from the statesman to the lad entering active life. This is not a question beyond the reach, or control, of practical government. It is a matter for personal effort, but government must provide the machinery or the tools with which to work. The workmen will soon find the skill.

¹ Read before the Library Association, at Glasgow, August. 1888.

I have charge of a factory library, and I have no hesitation in saying that we have a number of men, who have been made better workmen and better citizens by our operations. A reference to our prize-list and to the list of those who, in our evening classes, have obtained Government certificates would prove this. If this can be done, with means in every way limited, what might we expect from a well conducted, well provided public library in every centre of population? Who can say what the men of Wigan will be able to do with their splendid collection of technical books, adapted to their particular industries? And even if the books are not used as fully as might be, surely it is better some books remain unused, than that one man, one industry, one invention be lost for the want of them. Other towns are in the same position as Wigan. A few districts of London are provided for, but the rest are allowed by law to say: "we prefer to remain in ignorance, we do not want to listen to the old Scotch woman, or to those like her who say 'Read and then you will know.' We want to grumble that we are not keeping our place in the front rank of industrial nations."

What do we offer the youth of our country? It is admitted by all who have thought over the question of national existence, that with few exceptions, and the exceptions are for the most part individual and philanthropic, comparatively nothing good for the majority of our people is provided, between the time of leaving school with a fourth or sixth standard certificate, till they become husbands and wives, when they commence to control the formation of the character for good or for evil of the next generation. With our eyes fully open to the fact, that this is the most important period of life, when character is moulded, and the foundations of future life are laid, we have neither government continuation schools, nor government libraries; in short, no power to maintain or develop the first standard, to say nothing of the more advanced.

A good library renders the citizens more governable. The proportion of educated men who are misled (when real or supposed personal interests are not in the way) are comparatively few, hence I have a right to assume that, if all were well-informed, the man so well described by the Austrian poet¹ would have little chance.

"Three heads of Guilds sat gaming, drinking, singing in Bruges town,
'Twas the dyer, and the sooty smith, and the skipper burly and brown,
And with them Suter Koppenoil, from Ghent, a boisterous blade,
A bawler in the council-hall—a botcher at his trade."

¹ Count Anersperg (Anastatius Grüm). From a poem entitled: "The Throne and the Three-legged Stool."

With a well found library in every parish we should very soon cease to re-enact the scenes of the Roman crowd, drawn by Shakespeare, as we periodically do now.

Governments must learn "that it is the duty of government to make it easy to do right, and difficult to do wrong." Mr. Axon, in an able paper, read before the Library Association in 1881, discussed the *right* of communities to establish free libraries, but I maintain that it is the *duty* of governments to provide easily accessible books, and Mr. Axon supplies me with the proof of an early admission of that duty, so far back as 1537, when "Bibles were ordered to be made accessible to the people in every parish church in the country, and were provided from the rates." If one book, why not a collection of books?

We spend millions upon the most elaborate machinery that can be conceived for the destruction of the human race, while our educational machinery is but piece-meal work that would disgrace a third-class commercial house. Our national existence depends upon our being able to keep our place as a commercial nation; and to do so, we must at least know how. This knowledge can only be attained by a complete national system of education, of which easily accessible books are the very "sheet anchor."

In conclusion, I cannot do better than quote from an ode by Mr. Henderson, a student of Toronto University:—

"Nor grudge Romance's quaint beguiling mask;
Let Truth the masquerade of Fiction wear,
To ease the toil-worn labourer at his task,
And with the charm of Fancy banish care."

"Make Knowledge ample as the air we breathe,
Its influence free as is the light of heaven;
As He whose rain and sunshine all beneath
Unstinted share; so let soul-light be given."

"Spread wide the historic page to ardent youth;
With liberal hand to mankind give the right
To drink deep draughts from wells of purest truth;
Hasten the coming time: Let there be light."

G. R. HUMPHERY.



Caxtoniana. II.

21. *Sex perelegantissimæ Epistolæ* (24 leaves. Ai blank). Unknown till 1874, when Dr. Könnecke discovered a copy in the library at Halberstadt. (W. Blades, in *Athenæum*, Febr. 27, 1875).

22. *Caton*. A copy in G. Watson Taylor's sale in 1823, not recorded by Mr. Blades, was sold for £30 19s. 6d. (Barclay).

23. *The Golden Legend* (1st ed.) The Towneley copy bought by Hutton in 1814, when sold by Pickering in 1854, was said to be "dated 1493," but the edition of 1493 has only 436 leaves, whereas this copy was also said to "end with folio 442," consequently it must have been the first (or second) edition, and therefore, wanting the last seven leaves, can have shown no date at all. Corser's copy, in 1869, wanting the *Prologe*, Tables, first leaf of text, and otherwise defective, was sold for £147, and is now in the Huth Library. A fragment, only 55 leaves, from the Stowe Library, was sold in 1883 for £30 10s. On the apocryphal "small folio" edition, so often mentioned, although I have never yet been able to hear of any one who has seen it, I may refer to my own note, too long for quotation here, in *Notes and Queries*, 7th s. i. 344.

24. *Death-bed Prayers*. A single leaf, of which the only known copy was discovered by Mr. Blades in Earl Spencer's copy of *the Pilgremage of the Soul* (see No. 18, *ante*). Dibdin collated the volume so carelessly that he did not see that this leaf did not belong to it, and consequently, not finding it in the other copy, which was afterwards sold with other duplicates from Althorp, described the latter in the sale catalogue (Evans, 1821) as wanting *seven* leaves, whereas it really wanted only six. It was bought for £26 15s. by Heber, who had sold it some years previously to Earl Spencer.

25. Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (2nd ed.) Heber's copy, sold in 1834, was stated in the catalogue to want three leaves. According to Mr. Blades it was bought by Earl Ashburnham, and wants no less than twenty-five leaves. One, wanting twenty-eight leaves, was exhibited by Mr. Bonham at Southampton in 1871, and another, condition not stated, by Sir J. Buxton at the Caxton Commemoration in 1877.

26. Lydgate's *Life of Our Lady*. Both Lowndes and Brunet repeat the blunder of Dibdin, who blindly followed Herbert in saying that this book has no signature *A*. This notable conclusion was arrived at from the collation of the copy (formerly Gilchrist's) now at Althorp, without discovering that it wanted just eight leaves, viz.

g viii to h vii. The sales since 1863 are (1) Corser, in 1868, £113; (2) Sir W. Tite, in 1874, £54; (3) Earl of Devon, in 1883, quite perfect, with the blanks, £880, bought by Quaritch, who in the same year had for sale a copy with "some leaves" in *fac.*, bearing the autograph of "W. Herbert," price £80. Hence it seems that Herbert must have had two copies, as Sir W. Tite's, which had only a part of c viii and g vi in *fac.*, was also said to have Herbert's autograph, dated "1773."

27. *The History of King Arthur*. The only known perfect copy, now in New York, and formerly Harley's, was bought by Mr. Quaritch at the Earl of Jersey's sale, in 1885, for £1950.

28. *The Royal Book*. The Duke of Buccleuch's copy (not in Blades) wanting A i, with two other very slight defects, which had both been repaired, was sold in March last for £365 (Quaritch). The last previous sale was in 1829, when Earl Spencer bought Hibbert's copy, quite perfect, for £61 19s.

29. *Bonaventura: Speculum Vitæ Christi*. None has occurred for sale since 1868, when Corser's copy was sold for £67. It wanted two leaves and part of another when he bought it at Sir F. Freeling's sale in 1836, and others were taken from it, after the sale in 1868, to complete the copy now in the Huth Library. In addition to those recorded by Mr. Blades, is one exhibited by Earl Beauchamp in 1877. Two copies only are known on vellum, one, in very poor condition, is in the Royal Library at Windsor, the other in the British Museum, bought in 1864 for £1000.

30. *Christine de Pisan: The Fayts of Arms and of Chyualrye*. Corser's copy, perfect, was bought in 1868 for £250, by Mr. Quaritch, who also bought, in 1874, Sir W. Tite's copy, which had the two first leaves in *fac.*, for £190. In 1879 he had one with "a few leaves in *fac.*," price £120, and in the same catalogue a "very large and perfect" copy for £300. The Earl of Jersey's, with three leaves in sig. s in MS., was sold in 1885 for £71, and the Earl of Crawford's, with the table inlaid, but otherwise perfect, in June, 1889, for £235 (Ellis). One was announced in Febr., 1831, on the title-page of C. Meigh's catalogue, but did not appear in the catalogue itself; it was, however, sold in the following month with Francis Horner's books, as "the Marlborough copy," wanting the two leaves of table; it was bought by Wilkes, from whom it passed, in 1847, to Mr. Craufurd, at whose sale, in 1854, it was bought by Sir W. Tite (see above) for £77.

31. *The Gouvernaye of Helthe*. The only one known was that belonging to Earl Dysart, until Mr. Bradshaw discovered

a second, quite perfect, in the Bodleian Library (see Macray's *Annals*, p. 155).

32. *Commemoratio Lamentationis B. Mariæ, &c.* Unknown till 1875, when Mr. Campbell discovered a copy in the Public Library at Gent. Exhibited at the Caxton Commemoration in 1877.

33. *The Four Sons of Aymon*. Earl Spencer has the only known copy (not quite perfect). Of W. de Worde's reprint in 1504, only known from the statement in Copland's colophon to his own edition in 1554, not a vestige has been traced, with the exception of a *single leaf*, identified by Bradshaw in 1882 (see *Athenæum*, Aug. 26 and Sept. 16). Mr. Blades announced in the *Athenæum*, Aug. 19, 1882, the discovery of four leaves in sig. E of Caxton's edition, in the possession of Mr. Green, of Bishop Stortford. The Earl of Jersey had a copy of Copland's edition, sold for £54.

34. *Virgil's Eneydos*. Longman & Co. had two copies of this book for sale in 1814, one wanting L i, presumed to be the one now at Chatsworth, the other wanting A ii and L i. Mr. Quaritch had one in 1875 (No. 8401 in Cat.) with L ii and L vii in facs., "otherwise a very fine copy," £300. The Earl of Jersey's, quite perfect, was sold in 1885 for £235.

35. *The Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers* (3rd ed.) Dr. Vincent's copy, in 1815 (called in the catalogue "first edition") was bought by Singer for £99 15s. (? for Earl Spencer). Mr. Fuller Russell's in 1885, described in catalogue as "second edition" had the last five pages (3 leaves) in facs., and was bought by Mr. Quaritch for £165.

36. *The Mirror of the World* (2nd ed.) This edition is said to have 31 lines on a full page, but I have found the number to vary from 30 in the earlier part of the volume to as many as 33, and, sometimes, even 34. The Table occupies the two first leaves (A i, 2) and the text begins on A iii, making, with the next five leaves, a full 4n, so that the first leaf cannot have been blank, as has been supposed. Mr. Fuller Russell's copy, sold in 1885 for £265, had the Blandford crest on the side, and must therefore have been Hibbert's copy, bought for him by Triphook at the "White Knights" sale. The highest price ever given for this book was in 1874, when Mr. Quaritch bought Sir W. Tite's copy for £455. Ten years later, viz. in 1884, a very poor copy, wanting eleven leaves, was sold by Puttick and Simpson for £8. Mr. F. Perkins', in July, 1889, with the two leaves of Table supplied in MS., was sold for £100. Dibdin (*Bibl. Spencer.*, iv, 236) must be wrong in saying that the copy at Althorp was formerly Ratcliffe's. It was bought by Willett at James West's sale in 1773.

37. *The Art and Craft to know well to die.* See note 18 (*The Pilgrimage of the Soul*).

38. *Four Sermons* (2nd ed.) I have to confess that, while correcting the mistake of another correspondent in *Notes and Queries* (7th S. ii, 31), I was guilty of one myself, in saying that Mr. Addington bought Culemann's copy in 1860. It was not in Culemann's possession until shortly after the sale at Sotheby's, in September of that year, when Mr. Toovey bought it for £21 10s. Culemann's library was sold at the same place in 1870, when Addington bought it for £98, and after his death it was sold again, in May, 1886, for £35, to Mr. Quaritch.

39. *The Chastising of God's Children.* The "White Knights" copy, bought by a former Earl of Aylesford, in 1819, for £32 10s., was sold by the present Earl, in March, 1888, at Christie's, for £305. The "*Treatise of Love*" was bound with it. Mr. F. Perkins' copy of the "*Chastising*" was sold, in July last, for £100.

40. *The Life of S. Katherine.—The Revelations of S. Elizabeth of Hungary.* Mr. Blades shows good reason for supposing this volume to have been printed by W. de Worde, not long after Caxton's death. The only copy known to have changed hands, since 1832, is that of the Duke of Buccleuch, sold in March last. It is slightly wormed, but in other respects perfect, and was bought by Mr. Quaritch for £99, being the ninth copy known.

41. *The Golden Legend* (3rd ed.) Although commonly called a "Caxton" on account of its colophon "By me Wylliam Caxton," the fact of its bearing date "1493," *i.e.* just two years after his death, is sufficient proof of its having really been printed by W. de Worde. Lord Stafford's, a poor copy, with eight leaves in MS. and two others much damaged, was sold in 1885 for £85. Mr. Fuller Russell's, in the same year, was sold for £152. Unfortunately, I missed seeing this book, and have a strong suspicion that it was not the 1493 edition, although so stated in the catalogue. At any rate it cannot have shown the date, since it was acknowledged to want at least three (if not four) leaves at the end. Messrs. Ellis and White had one in 1874, wanting only the last leaf, which had been supplied in *fac.*, price £400.

42. *The Siege of Rhodes* [? W. de Worde.] Mr. Blades knew of only three copies in 1863, two of which, viz. that in the British Museum (Grenville) and Earl Spencer's, are perfect, the other (also in B. M.) is imperfect. A fourth, belonging to the Marquis of Lothian, appeared at the Caxton Commemoration in 1877.

Two other works must here be mentioned, although neither of them actually printed by Caxton, viz.—

(1) *Vitas Patrum*: The lyues of holy faders . . . translated out of *Frensshe into Englysshe* by WILLIAM CAXTON of *Westmynstre late deed, and fynysshed it at the laste daye of his lyff*. Emprynted in the sayd towne of Westmynstre by my Wynkyn de Worde. 1495. James West's copy was bought, at the sale of his library in 1773, by Dr. Hunter, for £4 10s.; the Marquis of Blandford's ("perfect") sold in 1819 for £32 11s.; J. Wilkes' in 1847, for £81; H. Perkins' in 1873, for £180; and, lastly, the Earl of Crawford's in 1887, for £71. The two last were bought by Mr. Quaritch.

(2) *Missale ad Usum Sarum* (interesting both on account of its connection with Caxton and from the fact of its being five years earlier than that which had hitherto been always supposed to be the *editio princeps*) "*exaratum Parisiis impensa optimi viri Guillelmi Caxton, arte vero et industria Magistri Guillermi Maynyal. Anno domini m.cccc.lxxxvii. iiii Decembris.*" Mr. Blades gave an account in the *Athenæum*, March 21, 1874, of the only known copy, then in the possession of W. J. Legh, Esq., M.P. Caxton's large device on the last verso was probably added by himself, after the volume was brought to England.

F. NORGATE.

The Bodleian Library.

IN accordance with a new Statute of the University, the curators of the library are bound to present to Convocation annually a report on the institution under their charge. The first of the series, for 1888, was lately published as a supplement to the *Oxford University Gazette*, No. 646 (May 15), price 3d. The scope of the paper includes both the history and the administration of the library, and seems to supply almost all the information which can reasonably be desired by the public. The first point which strikes a casual reader is the exemplary knowledge displayed by the curators of the collections which they administer. It may be doubted if the trustees of any similar institution could exhibit such a thorough and, so to say, working knowledge as the curators do of every part of the Bodleian. If we might venture to criticize their report, it would be to suggest that they keep the librarian a little too much in the background. It is certain that many of the changes are due to his great activity, and a few words of appreciation and acknowledgment might have fairly been assigned to the chief official.

The total receipts during 1888 were about £7,815, and the expenditure about £7,915. Of the latter, the sum received by the *personnel* of all kinds was over £4,330, and the amount spent on the purchase of MSS. and books was about £1,570. The proportion of new purchases (not, of course, including the copyright accessions) to second-hand purchases was as high as 6,034 volumes and parts to 423. The Bodleian must have many gaps among its older literature, and ought, in our opinion, to bestow more money on filling them up. Even of the 423 old books bought, 87 appear to be MSS. It is well known that 16th century classical literature is at the present time exceedingly cheap; it will certainly not long remain so.

The whole number of printed and manuscript items received in the year was 43,949, of which 30,545 came under the Copyright Act. The two important accessions of MSS. were both gifts—an ancient papyrus of the Second Iliad, presented by Jesse Haworth, Esq., and a Greek MS. of the Gospels (Scrivener's *Evan.* 562), received from Mrs. Mendham, through the executors of Dean Burgon.

The unexpected death of Professor Chandler, one of the curators, on May 16, was a great loss to the library. His high ideal of what the Bodleian ought to be, and his unselfish attention to its administration, are well known to everyone in Oxford; and the University can ill afford to lose them. His successor as curator, Mr. J. L. G. Mowat, Fellow of Pembroke College, has already on several occasions shown an active interest in the affairs of the Library, and will do much towards carrying out his predecessor's views.



Contractions of Fore-names.

MOST persons to whom has fallen the task of compiling catalogues and indexes of personal names, must have felt that a definite system of contractions for fore-names would be a great boon, and would effect a considerable economy of space. Some few, of course, have been long recognised. Such contractions as Jno., Wm., Chas., Geo., and some few others, are well known, but they are insufficient. Some attention has been devoted to the question by American librarians, but it does not appear to have been much considered in England. During the task of editing the "Index Library," my notice has been directed to the subject of contracting fore-names, owing to the need there is to economize space in the volumes which are issued in that series, and consequently I have been led to prepare a list of suitable contractions. In the period with which the Index Library principally deals, it has been found that about two-thirds of the total number of fore-names can be expressed by a single letter, whilst nearly all the remainder can be indicated by a couple of letters. Unusual fore-names are, of course, best given at length. The "Index Library" list of contractions, with a few emendations which appear desirable, is now submitted to the reader's consideration.

W. P. W. PHILLIMORE.

List of Contractions used in the Index Library.

Aa. ... Aaron.	Cy. ... Cicely.
Ab. ... Abraham.	C. ... Charles.
Ad. ... Adam.	Chn. ... Christian.
Ag. ... Agnes.	Ch. ... Christopher.
Alex. ... Alexander.	Cl. ... Clara.
Alf. ... Alfred.	Cl. ... Clement.
Al. ... Alice.	Cst. ... Constance.
Aln. ... Allen.	Crn. ... Cornelius.
Amb. ... Ambrose.	Cth. ... Cuthbert.
And. ... Andrew.	
A. ... Anne.	D. ... Daniel.
Ans. ... Anselm.	Dd. ... David.
Ant. ... Anthony.	Dn. ... Dennis.
Arch. ... Archibald.	Do. ... Dorothy.
Ar. ... Arthur.	
Augn. ... Augustine.	
Aug. ... Augustus.	
Av. ... Avery.	
	Ed. ... Edith.
Brb. ... Barbara.	E. ... Edward.
Bn. ... Barnaby.	Edm. ... Edmund.
Bw. ... Bartholomew.	Edw. ... Edwin.
Btr. ... Beatrice.	Eln. ... Eleanor.
B. ... Benjamin.	Elz. ... Elizabeth.
Bth. ... Bertha.	El. ... Ellen.
Btph. ... Botolph.	Emn. ... Emanuel.
Bgt. ... Bridget.	Eml. ... Emily.
Br. ... Bryan.	Em. ... Emma.
	Eph. ... Ephraim.
Ca. ... Catherine.	Es. ... Esther.
Cc. ... Cecilia.	Eus. ... Eustace.
	Ev. ... Evan.
	Esk. ... Eskeil.

Frd. ... Ferdinand.	Mrn. ... Marmaduke.
Fl. ... Florence.	Ma. ... Martha.
Flk. ... Fulk.	Md. ... Matilda.
Frs. ... Frances.	Mrt. ... Martin.
Fra. ... Francis.	Md. ... Maud.
Fr. ... Frank.	Mau. ... Maurice.
Fk. ... Frederick.	M. ... Mary or Maria.
	Mth. ... Matthew.
Gbl. ... Gabriel.	Mx. ... Maximilian.
Gf. ... Geoffry.	Ml. ... Michael.
G. ... George.	Ml. ... Miles.
Gld. ... Gerald.	Mga. ... Morgan.
Ger. ... Gerard.	Mdt. ... Mordaunt.
Glt. ... Gilbert.	Mor. ... Morris.
Gi. ... Giles.	Mo. ... Moses.
Gr. ... Grace.	
Grg. ... Gregory.	Na. ... Nathan.
Grf. ... Griffith.	Nl. ... Nathaniel.
	Ne. ... Nchemiah.
	N. ... Nicholas.
Hy. ... Harry.	
Hl. ... Helen.	O. ... Oliver.
Hla. ... Helena.	Ow. ... Owen.
H. ... Henry.	Pk. ... Patrick.
Hbt. ... Herbert.	Pl. ... Paul.
Hub. ... Hubert.	Pn. ... Penelope.
Hu. ... Hugh.	P. ... Peter.
Hmp. ... Humphrey.	Ph. ... Philip.
	Phn. ... Phineas.
I. ... Isaac.	Pru. ... Prudence.
Ish. ... Isabel.	
Ish. ... Isaiah.	Rph. ... Ralph.
Jcb. ... Jacob.	Rnd. ... Randolph.
Jf. ... Jeffrey.	Ry. ... Raymund.
Ja. ... James.	Rbc. ... Rebecca.
Ja. ... Jane.	Rgd. ... Reginald.
Jsp. ... Jasper.	R. ... Richard.
Jer. ... Jerome.	Rt. ... Robert.
Jo. ... Joan.	Rg. ... Roger.
Jha. ... Johanna.	Rs. ... Rose.
J. ... John.	Rw. ... Rowland.
Jph. ... Joseph.	
Jh. ... Josiah.	S. ... Samuel.
Jdth. ... Judith.	Sa. ... Sarah.
Ja. ... Juliana.	Sbl. ... Sibyl.
Ju. ... Julian.	Slv. ... Silvester.
Jst. ... Justinian.	Sm. ... Simon.
	St. ... Stephen.
K. ... Katherine.	Su. ... Susan.
Lnc. ... Lancelot.	Th. ... Theodore.
Lw. ... Lawrence.	Thph. ... Theophilus.
Lt. ... Letitia.	T. ... Thomas.
L. ... Leonard.	Tm. ... Timothy.
La. ... Lewis.	To. ... Tobias or Toby.
Lln. ... Llewellyn.	Trs. ... Tristram.
Ll. ... Lionel.	
Lou. ... Louisa.	U. ... Ursula.
Lu. ... Lucy.	
Lk. ... Luke.	Vi. ... Valentine.
	V. ... Vincent.
Mbl. ... Mabel.	
Mt. ... Margaret.	Wlt. ... Walter.
Mgy. ... Margery.	Wlf. ... Wilfrid.
Mrn. ... Marian.	W. ... William.
Mk. ... Mark.	Wn. ... Winifred.

Note : As it is obvious that a recognised system of abbreviations of fore-names would result in an immense economy of time and space, both in cataloguing and indexing, we invite those interested to aid in making the list as full as possible by sending us from time to time such suggestions as occur to them. We shall publish these as we receive them, and when a fairly complete list has been obtained we shall present each of our readers with a copy.—E.D.

Jottings.

There is no harder working librarian in London than Mr. H. R. Tedder, the well-known and much esteemed librarian of the Athenæum Club, but his work-hunger is apparently insatiable, for we learn that in addition to his library work he has undertaken the arduous duties of Secretary to the Club. The work of one of such offices is usually considered quite enough for an ordinary man.—But then Mr. Tedder is *not* an ordinary man.

A friend writes from Cambridge:—"It is almost incredible, but none the less true that, in this year of enlightenment, 1889, the library of one of the most famous Universities in the world does not possess a single copy of *Johannes Secundus*, though of course there are several editions. That is, judging by the catalogue, where there is, indeed, one copy given, but that copy I found had been lost. I looked, on chance, under *Secundus* first, but there was not even a cross-reference. Under *Johannes* I found the press mark of the one copy (which is lost) and of the translation in Bohn's series. On going to find this, I discovered it was out, of course; but taking down accidentally its neighbour volume (Bohn's Catullus and Tibullus), I found the first 106 pages had been torn out!"

The library does possess a copy of *Johannes Secundus*, however, after all, concealed in the *Tres Poetæ Elegantissimi, Parisiis*, 1582. The third of these 'most elegant poets,' is the anxiously sought *Johannes le Seconde*. But the *Basia* is quite hopelessly damaged beyond all hope of recovery. It is food for a little pleasant reflection, who it may have been that thus thumbed away the amatory writings of this poet of the Hague. It can scarcely have been his gracious Majesty King George I, for out of the 30,755 volumes which he presented to the University, it would have been *trop d'honneur* to the author in question to have thumbed him to this extent. Was it—one trembles to ask—Could it have been Bishop Moore himself, from whom the library came? Or, unkindest cut of all, was it the Bishop's *Librarian*?

Talking of Universities, why is it that one always feels so much more at home in reading under the roof of the Bodleian than one does under that of the University Library at Cambridge. A quiet seat in Duke Humphry's Library at Oxford seems almost to 'produce thought.' At Cambridge one always feels either *perdu* among the shelves, or—in a hurry."

A new library is to be built for the Kaiser Wilhelm's University at Strasburg, to contain at first 859,000 volumes. Nearly £50,000 has been devoted to the work, the site is given by the city of Strasburg, and the space is so vast that many additional rooms can be added in the future. The bibliographical treasures of the city are large and rare. They include many unique works, and the authorities are so liberal in lending their treasures that the books may be called the common property of the civilised world.

Railway libraries, which are an institution on the long routes in America, are to be introduced into Austria on a somewhat different plan.

Lending libraries will be opened at about forty stations of the Western State Railway. The books are in six languages—English, French, German, Italian, Hungarian, and Bohemian; and will be lent at the rate of 2d. or 4d. per week, the volumes to be returned at any station where there is a bookstall. Within the next month from 150 to 200 such libraries are to be opened on the various lines in Austria. The undertaking has been launched by an English company called the "Globus."

Another innovation in Austria consists in the introduction of barrack libraries, intended to supply the soldiers with a selection of sound and useful reading for their leisure hours. Of course there have been all along books in plenty, but chiefly those of a frivolous and unwholesome nature. This is now to be remedied by the new barrack libraries. Their introduction is due, not to the War Office or the Ministry of Instruction, but to a private association, the object of which is the improvement of education among the lower classes and also in the army.

In the *Academy* of July 13, is a Persian poem in honour of the Shah, written by Mr. C. E. Wilson, sub-librarian of the Royal Academy of Arts, and lately University Teacher of Persian at Cambridge. The Grand Vazir, in a letter of acknowledgment, has informed Mr. Wilson that the Shah was pleased to express a high opinion of the merits of the poem.

The authorities of the British Museum are distributing their duplicates. A considerable number of Indian official publications have been accepted by the Manchester Free Library, and four hundred volumes of Parliamentary papers, dating from the reign of William and Mary to that of William IV, have gone to Leeds. A further selection, in another subject, has been offered to the Edinburgh Public Library.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

The American Library Association.

According to the *Nation* "The late meeting of the American Library Association was and was not a success. The Association was entertained by citizens of St. Louis with the most lavish hospitality. Every moment outside of the sessions was occupied in sight-seeing or receptions. The post-conference trip, too, was thoroughly enjoyed—the restful glide down the Mississippi, the prowls through the quaint streets of New Orleans, the home run through the picturesque mountainous region of Kentucky and Tennessee, and the stay at those booming cities of the new South, Nashville and Chattanooga, with a short emulation of St. Louis hospitality at Cincinnati. So much for the pleasure; but the work of the Society was not so well done, for which the heat, and still more the choice of the place of meeting, were the cause. Half of the audience could hear with difficulty when the windows were closed, and could not hear at all when they were opened; and if they were kept closed, the heat made every one drowsy. In such conditions few felt in the mood for discussion. There were, as usual, too many reports and papers, but as there was no fixed programme, no discussion was cut off because the time for the next paper had arrived; the sparsity of talk was due simply to the hebetude of ideas. A more serious evil than the number of papers was their length. To prevent both evils in future, the suggestions have been made that hereafter an entire session be set apart for discussion alone, and that a twenty minutes' limit for papers be adopted and rigidly adhered to, speakers to be stopped in the middle of a sentence, if necessary. The State Librarians' Section was added this year to the Publishing Section. Next year a section for educational (*i. e.*, college and school) libraries will be instituted; after that, perhaps either the small town libraries will gain a chance to talk over their own wants and plans by themselves, unawed by the presence of librarians of a more extended experience; or the great libraries will retire to discuss their somewhat technical papers, leaving the more numerous little libraries to be the Association.

The first day was devoted to library architecture. The president, referring to his declaration at the Catskills that the architect is the natural enemy of the librarian, emphasized the distinction between use and beauty, and called upon architects to plan first for service and then to beautify, as the only way in which satisfactory work can be done. It might do, he said, for Bartholdi to design the shell of his statue, and then contrive a frame to hold the plates in place; but, as a living woman has other functions than to be beautiful, and her skeleton could not be designed simply to support her skin, so a library's plan should be made to further its vital functions, and not merely to impress or please the public with a fine elevation. He partly excused the general insufficiency of libraries to fulfil their purposes by the difficulty of reconciling use and beauty, but asserted that architects might have done better if they had given more thought to the problem. This called out from Mr. N. S. Patton, secretary of the Western Association of Architects, an earnest declaration, not merely that the two, use and beauty, can always be reconciled, but that use is indispensable to beauty, and that it is the duty of the architect always to seek it first. The most noteworthy paper was indisputably that of Miss Mary S. Cutler, on the Sunday opening of

libraries, a subject never before treated of in the Association. It was accompanied by valuable statistical tables, which report, among others, one town library that is opened on Sundays only, that being the only day on which the outlying farmers all come to the centre of the town. In this case the church and the library work in conjunction more apparently than usual. The subject was treated dispassionately, the conclusion reached being decidedly in favour of the opening in cities. The sentiment of the meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of Sunday opening.

Another novel subject was treated in Mr. Bardwell's report on scrap-book making, a new occupation which eager librarians have found for their leisure moments. Mr. Bardwell's own library, the Brooklyn, has, we have heard, made great progress and found great use in such a collection; but we doubt whether many libraries can follow in that path unless their budgets are much increased. Among the other papers may be mentioned Mr. Green's exhaustive paper on the industrial work of libraries; Mr. Foster's careful statement of the uses of a subject catalogue; Mr. Carr's report on charging systems—of great practical value; Mr. Bliss's clear report on classification, and Mr. Bowker's on indexing portraits. There were no startling theories broached this year. But in the discussion of cataloguing rules, the address of President Cutter, and the paper of Mr. Linderfelt on Dziatzko's rules, were both in favour of modes of entry favouring popular ignorance in opposition to the more scholastic and theoretically consistent practice of the British Museum, which has hitherto been generally adopted by the American libraries—in favour, that is, of entry under much-used pseudonyms in place of the real name, under the titles of British noblemen by which they are known, instead of under the family name by which they are not known, and under the best-known instead of under the last name of a married or divorced or remarried woman. The next meeting will be in the White Mountains or on Lake George, under the Presidency of Mr. F. M. Crunden of St. Louis.⁷

Library Notes and News.

ABERDEEN.—It has been resolved to spend about £7,500 in the erection of the new building for the Free Library on the north side of Rosemount Viaduct. Architects practising in Aberdeen are alone to be invited to submit designs.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Birmingham City Council, on August 6th, approved of the recommendation of the Free Libraries Committee to provide three new branch libraries for the districts of Small Heath, Spring Hill and Nechells, at an estimated cost of £15,300. The committee also proposed the purchase, for the sum of £7,000, of the Halliwell-Phillipps collection of Shakespearian rarities. Alderman Johnson introduced the question in a persuasive speech but, after considerable discussion, the decision of the Council was deferred until it could be ascertained what sum of money towards the purchase could be raised by private subscription.

CROYDON.—Mr. W. Hall, librarian of the Nicholson Institution, Leek, enters upon his duties as first librarian of the Croydon Free Public Library on September 2nd.

DEWSBURY.—Two rooms in the basement of the Town Hall have been set apart for temporary use by the Free Library Committee, one for the lending library and the other for a news-room. The Committee are advertising for a librarian at a salary of £100.

DUMBARTON.—The William Denny Memorial Committee have proposed to the Free Library Committee to provide accommodation for the library in the institute to be erected to perpetuate the memory of the late William Denny, and the Library Committee have agreed to accept the accommodation offered.

EDINBURGH.—In the Edinburgh Town Council on July 15, notice of motion was given "to remit to the Lord Provost's Committee to consider and report as to the advisability of nationalising the Advocates' Library, and to report."

FOLKESTONE.—The Free Library Committee have issued an appeal to the ratepayers to contribute to a voluntary rate of one penny in the pound in addition to the statutory rate, in aid of the library and museum. The latter rate produced £541 in the year ending March, 1888, and of this amount, £364 was required to meet the interest on and repayment of a loan of £6,500, leaving only £177 to carry on the library and museum.

GUERNSEY.—Captain Percy Groves, the librarian of the Priaulx Library at Guernsey, has intimated that any visitors to the island who might desire to see that remarkable collection of books would be heartily welcomed.

HUCKNALL TORKARD.—A bazaar for the benefit of the Free Library book fund was opened by Mrs. Ellis, wife of Mr. J. E. Ellis, M.P., on July 15th.

KIDDERMINSTER: FREE LIBRARY.—A local paper states that "of the persons duly recommended by burgesses, and taking books out of the library, probably 200 do not live in the borough, but in the Foreign, or Wribbenthal, or Bewdley. And the question has been raised whether they ought to be allowed this privilege, as neither they nor their families are contributing to the rates out of which the library is supported. On the other hand, they are most of them employed all day in the factories and workshops of Kidderminster, and in each case some burgess has signed a form of recommendation making himself responsible for any damage that may be done. The Committee are not quite clear how they ought to act in this matter—whether they should vigilantly drive off all outsiders, or allow to those who spend their hours of toil in Kidderminster free access to the little well of knowledge we have formed."

LEEK.—Mr. Hall has resigned the librarianship of the Nicholson Institute and Free Library, and Mr. Angus McLeod, of the Hulme Branch of the Manchester Free Libraries, has been appointed to succeed him.

LIVERPOOL.—Alderman Samuelson, who for many years has filled the position of Deputy Chairman of the Liverpool Free Libraries Committee, has been appointed Chairman, in succession to the late Sir J. A. Picton.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—Mr. Thomas Codrington held a public inquiry on July 12 (on behalf of the Local Government Board), into an application by the Free Public Library Commissioners of Clerkenwell for a loan of £6,000 for the purposes of erecting their permanent building. It was shown by evidence that the Act of Parliament had been complied with, in so far as taking a poll of the parish and declaring the necessary rate was concerned. Mr. Brown, librarian in the temporary building, said the Commissioners had received considerable outside support.—£600 from Captain Penton, M.P., £300 in money and £300 in books from Mr. R. M. Holborn (Mark Lane), whilst the Company of Skinners had given as good as £150 a year by the granting of a site on which to erect the permanent building at the nominal rental of £2 per year on an 80 years' lease. Evidence was called to show that a penny rate would produce £1,380; whilst it was estimated that the salaries of librarian and

assistants, repairs and cleaning, binding and renewal of books, rates, gas, water, &c., would cost about £1,300, so that the halfpenny rate, for which the objectors contended, would be altogether inadequate to meet the outlay. The objectors attempted to show that the Act had not been legally complied with, but the inspector said he could not go behind the judgment of Justices Field and Wills in the High Court that it had. The inspector said, too, that the halfpenny rate would have a tendency to cripple the library. Mr. Dan Smith followed this by drawing a terrible picture of the poverty of the parish, and by saying that the library was only a harbour for loafers. Against this the librarian showed that between Nov. 21, 1888, and July 8, 1889, there were 45,209 visitors to the news rooms, 8,300 books had gone out from the lending department, and there were 1,400 names on the borrowers' list. The Commissioners were much cramped for room in the temporary building, and were not sure of a month when they would have to give up possession for the purpose of the new street from the Angel to Holborn. Therefore the Commissioners asked a speedy reply from the Local Government Board, so as not to lose the opportunity of accepting the generosity of the Skinners' Company, and of putting into use the 1,000 books in the reference library which were at present warehoused for want of room. The inspector said he would lay the claims and objections before the Local Government Board with all possible dispatch.

LONDON: MARYLEBONE.—The Marylebone Free Public Library Association have adopted an excellent plan for the conversion of those rate-payers who oppose the adoption of the Acts. They have decided to furnish the parish with a small working library *gratis*, and to support it for three years—at the end of which time it is hoped the dissentient majority will have dwindled to a powerless residuum. On Monday, August the 12th, the new library was opened in the presence of an audience fairly representative of every class in the parish. Mr. Thomas Reed presided, and among those present were Mr. Alderman Debenham (treasurer), Mr. W. H. Bennett (hon. secretary), Mr. Timothy Holmes, the Rev. Canon Leigh, Dr. Day and Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister. The rooms are admirably adapted for their purpose, being well lighted, well ventilated and comfortable, and are already supplied with the principal papers and periodicals in addition to a collection of 1,000 volumes exceptionally well selected. The arrangement of the rooms and the selection of the books are mainly due to the energetic hon. secretary, Mr. W. H. Bennett, who, after the disappointing result of the recent poll, set himself with praiseworthy zeal to prosecute the scheme now realised. Marylebone will disgrace its traditions if it hesitates long to follow the excellent lead given to it by Mr. Debenham and Mr. Holmes and their coadjutors. Mr. W. E. Doubleday, late chief assistant of the Nottingham Free Public Reference Library, has been appointed librarian.

LONDON: ROTHERHITHE.—In the London County Council, the Finance Committee reported that they had considered the application of the Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for the parish of Rotherhithe for an advance of £3,000. The Commissioners had agreed to purchase a freehold site for £660, and to expend £2,000 in the erection of a library, and £340 for fittings and furniture, which they propose should be repaid in 50, 30, and 12 years respectively. The solicitor had reported that the requisite sanction of the Local Government Board had been given to the advance, and also to the periods proposed for repayment, and he advised that it was desirable that the periods for repayment of loans fixed by the Local Government Board should be accepted. The Committee therefore recommended: "That, subject to all necessary consents being furnished to the satisfaction of the

solicitor, the application of the Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for the parish of Rotherhithe for a loan of £3,000, to defray the cost of purchasing a site and erecting and fitting up a building to be used as a public library, be granted on condition that the loan be taken up without delay, interest being charged thereon at the rate of £3 10s. per cent. per annum, payable quarterly on the 1st January, April, July, and October in each year, and the principal being repaid by equal annual instalments on each 1st July as to £660 within a period of 50 years, as to £2,000 in 30 years, and as to £340 in 12 years. That it be referred to the solicitor to take the necessary measures for completing the loan, and that the amount be advanced out of the Consolidated Loans Fund." Lord Lingen moved the adoption of the report, which, after some discussion, was carried.

MIDDLETON, NEAR MANCHESTER.—The *Manchester City News* of July 13 contains a view of the picturesque Free Library at Middleton, and a brief history of the library, which was opened in March last. The librarian is Miss Bonner.

NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.—On July 11, Mr. George Hoskins laid the foundation stone of a reading room at Pillgwenlly, as a branch of the Newport Free Library. The building is designed by Mr. Alfred Swash, of Newport, and will cost £1,000.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Bank of England Library and Literary Association. Report, 1889.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. J. Gouly, writes to call attention to a grave mis-print overlooked in our notice of this report. The number of members in 1850, the year when the library was started, was given as 1608 instead of 608, showing apparently a most discouraging falling off—whereas, after the resignations of those early members who joined for the sake of giving the library a "good start," the numbers have increased to the present total of 537.

Ealing Free Public Library. The Sixth Annual Report of the Committee, 1888-9. pp. 16.

The library was transferred from its original home to spacious buildings erected in connection with the new public buildings, and opened by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, December 15th, 1888. The reading room was made available on January 16th, 1889, the lending library five days later, and the reference library March 2nd. Double the accommodation has been provided for reading purposes, but it is even now inconveniently crowded at times. The lending library contains 6,195 vols., and the reference library 7,144 vols. The daily average issue for the year—a broken one—was 495 vols. The estimated attendance during the year was 127,800. There are 4,202 borrowers' cards in use.

Leicester. Eighteenth Annual Report of the Free Public Libraries Committee to the Town Council of the Borough of Leicester, 1888-89. pp. 32.

In central lending library are 15,274 vols., as against 16,180 last year, the decrease being accounted for by volumes withdrawn (some for transference to reference department and Westcotes branch, others because of their bad condition), and by substituting one and two vol. for three vol. novels. At the branch libraries (2) are 7,403 vols. In the

Central Reference Library are 9,327 vols., and the issues were 28,958; at the Westcotes reference library are 472 vols. From the central lending 126,391 vols. were issued; from the branch lending libraries (2) 51,423 vols. It is claimed that fiction "forms about one-third of the total," the numbers being: fiction, 106,971; total, 177,814. The Westcotes branch was opened on the 25th March; it was erected by public subscription as a memorial of the Jubilee of the Queen's reign. A "portion of the rate" realised £1,541 8s. Total receipts, £3,808 9s. 9d., including a balance of £532 12s., and donations for the Westcotes branch of £1,512 14s. 10d. The chief librarian is Mr. Chas. Vernon Kirkby.

Manor of Aston Local Board. The Eleventh Annual Report of the Free Libraries Committee...1888-9. pp. 16.

Special attention was paid to the juvenile section during the year. The reference library numbers 4,668 volumes and pamphlets; and the lending library 7,001 vols. There were 1,739 borrowers' tickets granted. The issues from the lending library were 82,605 vols., being 9,156 vols. issued less than in the preceding year, and 12,374 less than the issues of 1886-7. Those in the reference library totalled 14,199 vols., or 2,570 vols. less than the issues during 1887-8. The falling off is attributed to some extent to the improvement in trade. The free lectures were well attended. The year's income was £622.

Smethwick. Annual Report of the Free Library Committee...1888-9. pp. 23.

The library contains 6,369 vols. The daily average issues were 212 vols. 564 new borrowers' cards were issued. The central and two branch reading rooms are very popular; more space is required. The year's expenditure was £512. Mr. Joseph Bailey is librarian.

Plymouth. Twelfth Annual Report of the Free Public Library and News Rooms Committee, January 1st, 1888, to March 30th, 1889 ...pp. 31.

The stock amounts to 26,833 vols. There were 2,231 vols. acquired. School Boards have been supplied with small circulating libraries with very satisfactory results. The local collection was largely augmented. There were 3,435 borrowers' tickets granted. The total issues for the fifteen months were 251,739 vols., being a daily average of 717 vols.

Richmond, Surrey. Eighth Annual Report, 1888-9. pp. 24.

8,926 vols. in the lending department as against 8,592 in 1887-8; 6,694 vols. in the reference department as against 6,051. 94,562 vols. and 2,376 periodicals were issued for home reading on 245 days. 9,303 vols. and 724 unbound periodicals were used in the reference department in the same period. The voluntary rate realised £149 3s. 10d., and the monthly shilling subscriptions came to £26 10s. The names of the subscribers, list of books purchased, and balance sheet of the fund is given. The penny rate produced £652 13s. 9d. Total receipts, excluding monthly shilling fund, are £963 5s. 8½d., of which £62 14s. 5½d. was balance in hand. Mr. Frank Pacy is secretary and librarian.

NOTE.

Many members of the Library Association having expressed a desire to recognise, in some tangible form, the valuable services rendered by Mr. Robert Harrison as Treasurer, from the foundation of the Association in 1877 until the present year, it has been decided to present him with a testimonial during the Annual Meeting. Subscriptions may be sent to the Hon. Secretaries.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

President:

RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester.

Hon. Treasurer:

HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

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ERNEST C. THOMAS,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

ANNUAL MEETING. LONDON, 1889.

The Reception Committee have made considerable progress in arranging an attractive programme of the entertainment to be offered to members attending the meeting. Among the items already settled are the following:—

Wednesday, October 2nd. In the afternoon visits will be made to the Halls of the Mercers, Merchant Taylors, and Barbers, where the Charters, Records, etc., of the Companies will be shown to the members of the Association.

Thursday, October 3rd. The principal librarian of the British Museum will receive the members at the Museum at 2.30 p.m. In the evening the Lord Mayor will entertain the members of the Association and their friends at a conversation to be held in the Mansion House.

Friday, October 4th. In the afternoon, by the kind invitation of the Duke of Westminster, the members will visit Grosvenor House; and in the evening a dinner will be given by the Reception Committee.

Arrangements are also being made by which members, individually or in parties, can visit places of interest in the metropolis.

EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

On Tuesday the 15th of October, an examination of library assistants will be held. Others than those actually engaged in library work may be admitted by leave of the Council. The names of all intending candidates should be sent not later than September 30th to the secretaries, from whom a syllabus of the examination may be obtained.

The Treasurer is making up his accounts for the year, and will be much obliged if members in arrear will at once remit their overdue subscriptions.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 6a, Paternoster Row, E.C.

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The Library.

Horace Walpole's Printing-Press.

IN July, 1757, when Horace Walpole first turned printer, he had been ten years a tenant of Strawberry Hill. Since he had bought it in 1747, "out of the shop of Mrs. Chenevix the toy-woman," the tiny "country-box" originally built by the Earl of Bradford's coachman had been pinnaced and battlemented and Gothicised out of all knowledge. Ten years of trees which "sprouted away like any nymph in the Metamorphosis" had given a sylvan appearance to the bare meadow-land which is shown in John Rocque's plan of 1741-5, and already he could enjoy in full perfection his favourite combination, "lilacs and nightingales." It is true that the ambitious extensions of later years were as yet undreamed of, but a refectory and library had nevertheless been added; and although, as always, the "extreme littleness" of the house was incontestable, it was not without its genuine admirers. "It has a purity and propriety of Gothicism in it (says Gray in 1754, now reconciled to his old comrade of the Grand Tour) that I have not seen elsewhere"; and it seems that Wharton shared his sentiments. Something of this, no doubt, was due to the glorious situation, which even that "simple old Phobus," Lord Radnor, could not entirely spoil by his preposterous "Mabland." But when one reads the depreciatory epithets which were spent on the Twickenham castle by the critics of the last century, it may be as well to remember that Gray and Wharton praised it, and apparently praised it in sincerity.

To defend or to describe Walpole's "Gothic Vatican of Greece and Rome" is not, however, so much our present purpose as to give some brief account of the work of the *Officina Arbuteana* or Strawberry Hill Press. What first suggested its establishment is obscure. It may have had its origin with Bathoe, Walpole's bookseller, to whose inventive genius London owes its first circulating library; or it may have been suggested by one of his tenants, Richard Franklin, the quondam printer of the *Craftsman*. In either case, it bursts upon us without premonition in a letter to Mr. Chute, whose historic dwelling, the Vyne, has recently been so charmingly described by its present possessor.¹ "On Monday next [14th July]," says

¹ *A History of the Vyne*, 1888, by Chaloner W. Chute.

Walpole,¹ "the *Officina Arbuteana* opens in form. The Stationers' Company, that is, Mr. Dodsley, Mr. Tonson, etc., are summoned to meet here on Sunday night. . . . Elzevir, Aldus and Stephens," he goes on, "are the freshest personages in my memory. Unless I was appointed printer of the Gazette, I think nothing could at present make me read an article in it." Later still, the news goes to Mann at Florence. "I am turned printer," he says, "and have converted a little cottage here into a printing-office." And then he proceeds to describe his printer, William Robinson, a personage with noticeable eyes that Garrick envies ("they are more Richard the Third's than Garrick's own," says Horace), and with an Irish head and pen. From a curious high-flown letter of Robinson's, which Walpole transcribes for Mann's amusement, it appears that he was "sole manager and operator."

It had been intended to commence proceedings with a translation by Bentley, the younger, then Walpole's guest, of Paul Hentzner's Journey into England in 1598. But just at this time Gray had brought his Odes, "The Bard" and "The Progress of Poesy," up to London to be printed. "I snatched them out of Dodsley's hands," says Walpole, "and they are to be the first fruits of my press." Gray seems to have consented, but reluctantly. "Walpole was so earnest to handsel his Twickenham press with this new pamphlet," he tells Mason, "that it was impossible to find a pretence for refusing such a trifle. You will dislike this as much as I do, but there is no help; you understand, it is he that prints them, not for me, but for Dodsley." Accordingly, on the 8th of August, appeared in a thin shilling quarto of 22 pages, *Odes by Mr. Gray. Phonanta Sunetoisi. Pindar. Olymp. II. Printed at Strawberry Hill for R. and J. Dodsley in Pall Mall, 1757*. Upon the title-page was Walpole's book-plate, a graceful little vignette of Strawberry in its earlier form, framed in a design of leaf and flower-work, and bearing in one corner his motto *Fari quæ sentiat*. The book, notwithstanding the charge of obscurity, and Gray's obstinate refusal to annotate it sufficiently (there were only a few brief notes), had a considerable success. A large number of the 1000 copies printed were sold in two months, and the part therein of "Elzevir Horace," as Conway christened his friend, was not forgotten.²

Hentzner's *Journey into England in the year 1598* was the next

¹ As a matter of fact it does not seem to have opened until Wednesday, 16th July. (See letter to George Montagu of that date).

² One of the rarer leaflets issued from the Press was a complimentary poem of 24 lines, addressed to Gray on his Odes, by David Garrick, of which six copies only were struck off.

production. It was a small octavo dated 1757, with an advertisement of ten pages by Walpole, to 103 double pages of English and Latin, the translation from the latter language being by Bentley. The issue was limited to 220 copies, and it was printed in October, with a Dedication to the Society of Antiquaries, of which body, at this date, Walpole was a member. After this, in April, 1758, came the *Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors* in two volumes octavo; to which followed 200 copies of *Fugitive Pieces, in Verse and Prose*, a collection including Walpole's early poems, his papers in Moore's *World*, and several miscellaneous pieces. It bore the motto *Pereunt et imputantur*, and was dedicated to the author's life-long friend Major-General Henry Seymour Conway. Although, as the title-page announces, it was "printed at Strawberry Hill, 1758," it does not seem to have been issued until March, 1759, when, Walpole says in his "Short Notes of my Life," he began to distribute copies to his friends.¹ Next came another octavo, *An Account of Russia as it was in the year 1710*, by Charles, Lord Whitworth. Of this, an extremely interesting volume, 700 copies were printed in 1758; and early in the next year (February 2) was issued with the motto *Parvis componere magna*, a little book by Walpole's friend, Joseph Spence, entitled *A Parallel, in the Manner of Plutarch, between a most celebrated Man of Florence [Magliabecchi] and One, scarce ever heard of, in England*. . . . Robert Hill, a self-educated tailor of Buckingham, is the second of the persons mentioned, and the book was issued for his benefit, an end which must have been attained, as 600 copies were sold by the publishers, the "Messieurs Dodsley at Tully's Head," in a fortnight, and the volume was re-issued in London.

On the title-page it is described as "Printed at Strawberry Hill by William Robinson, 1758." It must have been one of the last—if not actually the last—of the performances of Robinson of the remarkable eyes, for in March of the following year Walpole, whose temper, as Scott says, was "precarious," had found out that his Phoenix was a foolish Irishman, "who took himself for a genius," and they had parted. At the date of his making this announcement to Zouch the press was at a stop. From the "List of the Books printed at Strawberry Hill" the next issue was Lucan's *Pharsalia*, edited by Bentley. It was published in 1761 and dated 1760. Notwithstanding the difficulties attending its appearance, it is held to be one of the most

¹ Gray got one of these, which is at South Kensington. "This Book (says a MS. inscription) once belonged to Gray the Poet, and has his autograph on the Title-page. I [i.e. George Daniel, of Canonbury] bought it at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's Sale Rooms for £1. 19 on Thursday 28 Aug^r 1851, from the valuable collection of Mr. Penn of Stoke."

beautiful volumes ever issued by Walpole. Bentley died before it was completed, and the task of superintending its publication, to which Walpole's scholarship was scarcely equal, was undertaken by the editor's relative, Richard Cumberland, the dramatist, perhaps better remembered now as Sheridan's "Sir Fretful Plagiary." During its progress Walpole had been actively engaged on another and more important work with which he was directly connected. In 1758 he had purchased from the widow of George Vertue, the engraver, forty manuscript volumes of notes relating to English Painters, Sculptors, Gravers and Architects.¹ Vertue, who died in 1756, had in some cases begun their lives, but he had made but little progress, and his literary attainments were of a very elementary kind. In September, 1759, according to his autobiographical notes, Walpole commenced to look over this mass of material with a view to prepare it for publication. He chronicles his progress as follows. He began to write in January, 1760, and finished the first volume on August 14. On September 5 he began the second volume, and on January 4th, 1761, the third. This he laid aside after the first day, not resuming it until the end of June. In August, however, he finished it; and early in 1762 six hundred copies of the book were published in 3 vols. 4to. In August of the same year he began, also from Vertue's material, a *Catalogue of Engravers who have been born or resided in England*. To this, which he finished in October, and published in 1763, he added an account of Vertue's Life and Works. Three years later, in 1765, he issued a second edition of the whole, and six years later still he printed a fourth and final volume, the publication of which, from a desire not to wound too many susceptibilities, was delayed until 1780. The *Anecdotes of Painting* is the most considerable effort of the Strawberry Hill Press, if not of Walpole's entire literary productions. Most of the research, often of a special and recondite kind, was done to his hand (as, indeed, he cheerfully acknowledges), and his own duty was mainly confined to systematising, selecting, and generally decorating Vertue's chaotic memoranda. These conditions were entirely favourable to his literary habit of mind, and the *Anecdotes of Painting*, especially in the modern edition of Wornum, are still worthy of respect. Besides this work, the only other issues from the press previous to 1765 were a small quarto of 200 copies, being a reprint of the famous *Life of*

¹ "Mr. Vertue's Manuscripts, in 28 vols." were sold at the sale of Rare Prints and Illustrated Works from the Strawberry Hill Collection, on June 21, 1842, for £26 10s., being lot 1110. Walpole says in the "Short Notes" that he paid £100.

Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury, written by himself (1764), to which Walpole prefixed an "Advertisement" and "Dedication," and another quarto of 34 pages, containing some dozen *Poems by Anna Chamber, Countess Temple* (1764). Of this, which was introduced by some "commendatory verses" of his own, 100 copies were struck off, in "a large but not very elegant type," says Dibdin. The "Short Notes" contain no reference to this book, and it is probable that Walpole attached no importance to it.

From a letter to Zouch, the antiquary, in February, 1762, in which Walpole apologises for the long deferred advent of the *Anecdotes of Painting*, it would appear that there was not at that date any recognised successor to William Robinson. But from references to the roguery of a fourth printer, which, coupled with "the tediousness of engravers," has delayed the book "week after week for months," it is clear that candidates for the office were not wanting. The *Anecdotes* bear the name of T. Farmer, while Lord Herbert's *Life* and Lady Temple's *Poems* were printed by one Prat. But after the appearance of the second edition of the *Anecdotes*, 1765, which was printed by Thomas Kirgate, a hush seems to have fallen on the Strawberry Hill Press. Neither *The Castle of Otranto*, 1764, nor the *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of Richard the Third*, 1768, bore the Twickenham imprint; and it is not until the latter year that the list contains the record of a fresh production. This was *Cornélie, Vestale*, a youthful tragedy by the "decent friend" of Madame du Deffand, the President Henault, and it was undertaken by Walpole as an acknowledgment of the old man's kindness to him while in France. Only 200 copies were printed, 150 of which went to the French capital. Probably this renewed activity of the *Officina Arbuteana* coincides with the permanent instalment, as printer, of the already mentioned Kirgate, whose name is associated with all its subsequent issues. *Cornélie* was followed by Walpole's own dubious tragedy, *The Mysterious Mother*, of which the impression was discreetly limited to 50 copies. Both this and the President's play were in octavo. After these, in 1769, came another octavo, *Poems, by the Reverend Mr. Hoyland*; and three years later, another of the Strawberry Hill rarities, the *Memoires du Comte de Grammont par M. le Comte Antoine Hamilton*, 1772, a small quarto, "*augmentée de Notes et d'Éclaircissemens nécessaires*," by Walpole himself, and dedicated to Madame du Deffand. Of this 100 copies were printed, 30 going as presents to Paris. To the same year (1772) belong *Copies of Seven Original Letters from King Edward VI to Barnaby Fitzpatrick* (200 copies), and two numbers of *Miscellaneous Antiquities, or a*

Collection of Curious Papers, either republished from scarce Tracts, or now first printed from original MSS. to be continued occasionally. Of these last, 500 copies were struck off, but they never got beyond the second number, which contained the life of Sir Thomas Wyat the elder.

Apart from vol. iv. of the *Anecdotes of Painting*, published, as already stated, in 1780, no considerable typographical effort succeeded the *Miscellaneous Antiquities*. But to 1774 belongs one of its most interesting issues, the well-known *Description of the Villa of Horace Walpole, youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole Earl of Orford, at Strawberry-Hill, near Twickenham, with an Inventory of the Furniture, Pictures, Curiosities, etc.* To this (an issue of 100 small and 6 large paper copies) were afterwards affixed an Appendix ("Pictures and Curiosities added since the Catalogue was printed"), "Additions since the Appendix," and "More Additions," all of which are usually found bound up with it. A revised issue, with 27 plates, was printed in 1784, but from a passage in a letter of 1787 to Lady Ossory, it would appear that, owing to difficulties caused by the over-weening curiosity of some of Walpole's "customers," as he called the Strawberry sightseers, its circulation was for some time deferred. Other notable volumes, subsequent to 1772, are Lady Craven's *Sleep-Walker*, 1778, a two-act comedy from the French of Madame du Deffand's friend, Pont de Veyle; the *Letter to the Editor of the Miscellanies of Thomas Chatterton*, 1779, in which Walpole vindicates himself from being the *sons et origo mali* in that unhappy tragedy; and the *Essai sur l'Art des Jardins modernes*, 1785, a version of Walpole's tract upon that subject, by his friend the Duke de Nivernois, to which the English text was added. Besides these, occasionally appears in booksellers' catalogues a volume of *Hieroglyphic Tales*, 1785, of which it is said that only seven copies at most were printed, one of which has fetched as much as £16. It was reproduced at Newcastle, in 1822, by Emerson Charnley, the bookseller. Rarer even than the *Hieroglyphic Tales*, since it is described as a "surreptitious" impression, is the *History of Alcidalis and Zelida*, 1789, presumably a translation of Voiture's fragment with that title. Not more than two copies of this are known to exist, one of which belonged to the Newcastle book collector, John Trotter Brockett.

From the foregoing enumeration have been omitted a number of minor works—"loose sheets or small tracts," the list calls them—often difficult to date. Among these may be mentioned *The Magpie and her Brood*, a fable from Bonaventure des Periers, addressed, in 1764, to Lady Suffolk's little niece Miss Hotham; *Dorinda, a Town*

Edogoe, 1775, by the Right Hon. Richard (afterwards General) Fitzpatrick, a younger brother of the Earl of Ossory, which contains the couplet—

"And oh! what bliss, when each alike is pleased,
The hand that squeezes and the hand that's squeezed;"

Charles Fox's verses to Fulke Greville's daughter, that "lover of the Whigs," the beautiful Mrs. Crewe; Mr. Charles Miller's *Verses to the Hon. Horatia Waldegrave* on the death of the Duke of Ancaster; Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Jones's *Muse Recalled*, 1781, an Ode on the Marriage of Lord Althorp and the Lavinia Bingham whom Reynolds has immortalized in her straw hat and blue ribbon; *A Letter from the Honble. Thomas Walpole to the Governors and Committee of the Bank of England*, 1781; and, lastly, *Bishop Bonner's Ghost*, 1789, a poem written by Hannah More while on a visit at Fulham to Beilby Porteus, Bishop of London. The remainder, which include a sheet of *Rules for obtaining a Ticket and for visiting the Villa of Horace Walpole*, are chiefly labels, title-pages, short pieces and familiar verses, several of which last are supposed to emanate from the Press itself. Of this sort there are quatrains to Lady Townsend, Lady Rochford, Madame de Boufflers, Miss Berry and others, but they are, generally, of too purely occasional a character to bear reprinting.

Most of Walpole's visitors (as distinguished from his "customers") were invited to inspect the Press, which, from an aquatint by F. Jukes, after a sketch made in 1783 by E. Edwards, stood in a cottage near the farmyard at Strawberry. In the foreground is Mr. Kirgate with some made-up type under his arm. In later years, as Walpole's gout grew more troublesome, Kirgate acted as his secretary; and, if Pinkerton is to be believed, was doomed to see his "modest merit supplanted" in Lord Orford's will by "intriguing impudence," a statement which would be more instructive if it were more definite. But that there was some ground for disappointment is plain from the references in the "Farewell Verses to the Press," which were written for Kirgate by Septimus Harding, the Pall Mall miniature painter, in which the former is made to speak of himself as "forlorn, neglected and forgot." His portrait is often to be found inserted in one or other of the Strawberry issues. Of these he himself possessed an unique collection, which was dispersed at his death. It included both *Alcidatis and Zelida* and the *Hieroglyphic Tales*, and served as the basis of the rare little *Catalogue of Books, Poems, Tracts, and small detached Pieces, printed at the Press at Strawberry Hill*, which was compiled by George Baker in 1810.

AUSTIN DOBSON.

The Guildhall Library and its Work.¹

THE first mention of a Library at the Guildhall is contained in the following extract from the records of the Corporation, the original being in Latin:²—"Item the same day [to wit the 27th September, A^o 4 Henry VI., 1425], it was granted by the said Mayor and Aldermen and Commonalty that the new House or Library, which the said executors [to wit of the Testament of Richard Whityngton] and the executors of William Bury made near the Guildhall, and the custody of the same, together with the chambers built underneath the same, should be in the disposition and management of the said executors. In such manner that all and everything, which the same executors should think fit to ordain, touching the placing of books or doing other matters—shall be done and executed as fully and perfectly as if they had been ordained by the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, by their own authority or by authority of the franchises of the said City without any kind of refusal or contradiction, &c."

The building thus erected was a separate structure, situated on the south side of the Guildhall Chapel; and is described in a schedule of the possessions of the Guildhall College, dated 24th July, 1549, 3 Edward VI., as "a certen house nexte unto the sam Chapell apperteynyng, called the Library all waies res'ved for studente to resorte unto w^t three chambres under nithe the saide library, which library being covered w^t Slate is valued together w^t the Chambres at xiijs. iiijd."³ yearly. From the same document we learn that "the saied library is a house appointed by the saied Maior and cominaltie for . . . resorte of all students for their education in Divine Scriptures."⁴

The noble liberality of Richard Whittington and William Bury, the founders of the Library, was well supported by Whittington's executor, John Carpenter, the learned Common Clerk of London, compiler of the Liber Albus, and founder of the City of London School, whose will, proved in the Consistory Court of London, 12th May, 1442, contains the following bequest: "If any good or rare books shall be found amongst the said residue of my goods, which, by the discretion of the aforesaid Master William Lichfield and Reginald Pecock, may seem necessary to the common Library at Guildhall, for the

¹ Read before the Library Association, 10th April, 1889.

² Letter Book K, fol. 39.

³ Price's *Descriptive Account of the Guildhall*, p. 138.

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 139.

profit of the students there, and those discoursing to the common people, then I will and bequeath that those books be placed by my executors, and chained in that Library, under such form that the visitors and students thereof may be the sooner admonished to pray for my soul."¹

The Library was attached to the ancient College at Guildhall, which had a custos and four priests, one of whom was the keeper of the Library. The earliest librarian of whom any record exists was William Clipstone, priest, who presented the following quaint petition to the Court of Aldermen, the 13th July, 1444: "To the full Honorable Lord and Souveraignes Maire and Aldermen of the Cittee of Loñdon, besechith lowely your Prest and Bedeman Maister John Clipstone, Keper of your Liberary atte Guyldehalle for as moche as it hath likede you for to take to hym the kepinge and charge of the said Liberary. Please it to you, for to considere the greet attendaunce and charge the which he hath with it, and in waytenge therupon to graunte that he may be made so sure of his lyfode, housyng, and easement of the gardyn which he hath for that occupacion atte this day, that he be nat hereafter putte away therefro ne noo part there-off, nor noon other charge put upon hym so that he may have more cause and occasion to pray besyly for the weele of you and of the sayd Cittee, &c., &c."² The reply of the Court states that the request having been read and fully considered, and the great merits of the petitioner and his diligence having been weighed, his request is granted as long as the said Master John is willing to hold the office in person for the whole of his life, so that he may enjoy the emoluments even though he should be laid by through sickness. He died in 1457, and was buried in Guildhall Chapel³. He appears to have been succeeded by Thomas Mason, who was appointed to a perpetual chantry in 1466. On the first page of a volume of tracts and essays preserved in the Library of Magdalen College, Oxford, is a MS. Latin note, from which it appears that Mason, besides his official position as the Librarian at Guildhall, acted afterwards in a similar capacity to Master Richard Lagharne, for whom he bought the book in question, in the year 1468, at a cost of 13s. 4d.⁴ An inscription is preserved to one Thomas Frances, who was buried in Guildhall Chapel in 1488, after

¹ Brewer's *Life of John Carpenter*, 1856, pp. 143-4.

² Letter Book K, fol. 219.

³ Stow, 1598, p. 219.

⁴ Price's *Guildhall*, p. 126.

holding the office of Custos for forty years.¹ His office, however, at all events in its earlier period, must have been that of Custos or Keeper of the College. Again, in 1510, we meet with the burial in the chapel of Edmund Alison, Priest and Custos of the Library,² he being the last librarian of whom any record is preserved.

The following entry shows that the Corporation, while willing to make their library useful to individuals, were sufficiently careful of their duties as custodians. It also shows that the Library was intact at the date mentioned. "Jovis xxxj^o Januar' A^o iij E. vj [1548-9] Court of Common Council. Item for sundrye consyderacons movyng the Co^rte it ys ordered & agreid by the same that Mr. Cycyll shall have all suche boks of St. Augustyns works and other as he nowe desyreth that Remayne in the guyld hall chappell wth this gentle Requeste to be made to hym vpon the delyvye of the same that this howse trusteth that he havynge pused theym wyll Restore theym to the seid lyberarye there to Remayne to suche vse as they were pydyed for."³

John Stow, writing of the Guildhall Chapel, gives the following account of the Library and its destruction: "Adjoyning to this chappell on south side was sometime a fayre and large librarie, furnished with bookes, pertaining to the Guildhall and colledge: these bookes (as it is said) were in the raigne of Edward the 6 sent for by Edward, Duke of Sommerset, Lord Protector, with promise to be restored shortly: men laded from thence three carries with them, but never returned. This librarie was builded by the executors of R. Whittington, and by William Burie: the armes of Whittington are placed on the one side in the stone worke, and two letters, to wit, W and B for William Burie, on the other side: it is now lofted through and made a store house for clothes."⁴ No reference to this act of selfish rapacity is to be found in the City records, but it probably happened in 1549.

At this time the Corporation were negotiating with Somerset and the Court for the purchase of the lands and buildings belonging to the dissolved college at the Guildhall, and they may have refrained from pressing the Duke for the return of their books from fear of prejudicing their application. The King's Letters patents for purchasing the lands and buildings were received on 17th April 4 E. VI

¹ Weever's *Funerall Monuments*, p. 399.

² Stow, p. 219.

³ Letter Book Q, fol. 275a.

⁴ Stow, p. 219.

(1550), and on the 13th of the previous month the following resolution was agreed to, "Jovis xiiij Marcij A^o iiij^o E. vj^{id}. Item it is agreyd that the Chamberleyn shall for the pfytte of the Citie sell all the deskes of the libary of the Guildehald college to them that wyll gyve most for them."¹

The dismantling of the Library was followed just a week later by the lease of the building to Sir John Ayloff for use as a cloth market. "Jovis vj^o Marcij A^o R Rg E vj iiij^o. Item for certeyn consyderacons movyng the Co'te yt is agreid by the same that S^r John Aylif knight now kep. of blackwell hall shall have the hole lybarye of the Guyldhall Colledge as well above as befieth from the feste of the Anūcyacon of o^r ladye nowe nexte comyng for the terme of his naturall lyf, yeldyng therfore duryng the same terme to the Mayer & Coialtye & Cytezens of this Cytie to thuse of the poore v^{li}. So alweyes that he vse & occupye the same as a coēn m'ket howse for the sale of clothes and none otherwyse."²

Of this "fayre and large librarie," which had a flourishing existence for a century and a quarter, not one volume is known to be preserved,³ nor even a catalogue which might give a clue to a successful search, but since honest John Clipstone and his priestly successors doubtless took care to inscribe every volume with the name of the Library there is room for hope that some may yet be discovered—perhaps in the MS. stores of some other library. In such an event I am at liberty to say that the books will be thankfully received by the library committee, and no questions asked.

From 1550 to 1824 is a very long step, but it was not until the latter year that any action was taken by the Corporation to re-establish their Library. The second founder was Mr. Richard Lambert Jones, whose wide and liberal views, great energy, and conspicuous talent for public work, in many departments, were of the highest advantage to his fellow-citizens. On the 8th April, 1824, upon his motion, the Court of Common Council unanimously referred it to a special committee "to inquire and examine into the best mode of arranging and carrying into effect, in the Guildhall, a Library

¹ Repertory 12, fol. 210 b.

² Letter Book R, fol. 58 a.

³ I have since been informed by my friend Mr. William Blades, that in June, 1861, he saw in the library of Mr. C. H. H. Sotheby, who was then living in the Albany, a MS. Chronicle of England, which contained on a fly-leaf the following note in writing of the 15th century, "Iste liber p̄tinet ad bibliothecam Guyldhalde London." Any further information concerning this gentleman's library will be very welcome.

of all matters relating to this city, the borough of Southwark, and the county of Middlesex, and report thereon to this Court."¹ The committee thus appointed consisted of thirteen members, and Mr. R. L. Jones was unanimously elected their chairman.

The new library did not start under such favourable auspices as its predecessor; no wealthy citizen appeared to follow Sir Richard Whittington's example in building for its reception a "faire and large" house, and there is little doubt that the obscure and unsuitable apartments devoted to its use, had a most unfavourable influence upon its development, notwithstanding the well-directed energy of the committee under their indefatigable chairman. On the 2nd June, 1828, they reported, recommending that the rooms then occupied by the Irish Society should be adapted for the purposes of the new Library, and that meanwhile the front room by the Exchequer Court should be used as a temporary depository. They also reported that the sum of £500 would be required for the outfit, and £200 annually for maintenance. At the outset the committee wisely confined their purchases to books relating to the manners, customs, laws, privileges, and history of the city of London and its neighbouring localities. The condition of the book market was then favourable for the procural of old and scarce London books, private collectors been fewer than at present, and our American rivals not being then in the field. The services of Mr. William Upcott, librarian of the London Institution, having been engaged for arranging the books, the committee, early in 1828, recommended that the Library should be open for use, that Mr. William Herbert should be appointed librarian, and that a catalogue of the books should be prepared. The Library was accordingly opened in June following, with 1,380 works in 1,700 volumes, of which a catalogue was prepared by Mr. Edward Tyrrell, remembrancer. The collection had increased by 5th November, 1829, to 2,800 volumes (1,050 of which were donations), and nearly 2,000 prints and 100 drawings, the latter consisting chiefly of London topographical views and portraits of City celebrities. The books included a complete series of the *London Gazette*, from its commencement in 1665 to 1792, and sets of the *Gentleman's* and *European* magazines.

Among the earliest benefactors were Alderman Sir Matthew Wood, Deputy Whitby, Mr. Philip Hurd (who gave £100 and several books), Mr. Henry Woodthorpe, town clerk, and Mr. W. L. Newman, city solicitor. By the 15th June, 1840, the acquisitions had reached nearly 10,000 volumes, and extensive additions to the

¹ Common Council Minutes, 1824, pp. 74, 75.

premises of the library had been obtained, including a room to accommodate a Museum of local antiquities. A new edition of the catalogue was prepared this year by Mr. Herbert, the librarian. From this time the growth of the Library, though not rapid, was steady and continuous, and marked at intervals by acquisitions of importance. In the beginning of December, 1840, an experiment was made of keeping the Library open in the evening, from six to nine o'clock. This did not then prove successful, and was discontinued in June, 1841. A proposal was brought before the Court of Common Council on the 27th October, 1842, "that it be referred to the Library Committee to consider whether certain books may not be taken out of the Library by members of this Court, under similar regulations to those adopted in the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford," but the motion was rejected. In May, 1843, the autograph signature of Shakespeare, attached to the purchase-deed of a house in Blackfriars, dated 10th March, 1612, was bought at a sale in Messrs. Evans' rooms in Pall Mall for £145. This was secured for the Library in the first instance by the chairman, Mr. Jones, on his personal responsibility, the purchase being afterwards confirmed by the Court of Common Council. The mortgage-deed of the same property, also bearing Shakespeare's signature, and dated the following day, was purchased by the British Museum in 1858 for £315.

Mr. William Herbert resigned the office of librarian early in 1845, on account of failing health, and on the committee's recommendation a pension was awarded to him. His name will long live in connection with his valuable history of the "Twelve Great Livery Companies," a work which is still the best authority for the extensive subject of which it treats. He was succeeded as librarian on the 13th February, 1845, by Mr. William Turner Alchin. This gentleman has left a monument of his diligence and skill in a valuable subject index to the catalogue, printed in 1846, a beautifully written catalogue of the prints and maps, and an interleaved folio copy of the catalogue of books, with additions and press-marks inserted in a very neat hand. In addition to his duties as librarian, Mr. Alchin was also engaged in indexing the records of the Corporation, and the valuable results of his labours in this department constitute a remarkable monument of his industry and ability.

In 1847 Mr. Philip Salomons presented to the library a valuable collection of about 400 Hebrew books, and in 1873 a portion of the bequest of his brother, Alderman Sir David Salomons, Bart., was applied to increasing the collection, and adding to it works illustrating the history and present condition of the Jews throughout the world.

This was done under the advice of the Rev. Albert Löwy, to whom the committee also entrusted the preparation of a catalogue of the entire collection of Hebrew and Jewish literature. This catalogue, which is now in print and nearly ready for issue, will, I venture to think, be found to possess much practical usefulness. It involves a considerable departure from recognised bibliographical axioms, as, instead of presenting an exact transcript of the title-page, which, in the case of Hebrew works, more often hides than reveals the nature of the book, the initial words only of the Hebrew title have been given, and a concise description of the book supplied in English. This main feature of the catalogue will doubtless be welcomed by students, and Hebraists will appreciate the learning and research displayed by Mr. Löwy in this untrodden field. Mr. Löwy has also largely increased the collection, both by liberal personal contributions and by valuable gifts of books which he has obtained from many of his friends.

On 26th March, 1846, the committee reported that the ante-room of the library had been fitted up as a museum, and that a large collection of Roman antiquities, found in 1841, during the excavations for the new Royal Exchange, had been presented by the Royal Exchange and Gresham Trust Committee. These were arranged by Mr. Thomson, librarian of the London Institution, and a catalogue of them, prepared by Mr. afterwards Sir William Tite, was printed in 1848. The foundation for a civic museum had been laid in 1828, soon after the establishment of the library, when various antiquities had been received, which were discovered in the foundations of the General Post Office, new London Bridge and Guildhall Chapel. In 1850 Mr. H. B. Hanbury Beaufoy, F.R.S., presented a valuable collection of 17th century tradesmen's tokens, relating to London, Westminster and Southwark. The committee engaged the services of Mr. J. H. Burn, to make a catalogue of the collection; this was printed in 1853, and a second edition was published in 1855.

The question of establishing free public libraries was now before the public mind, and it is satisfactory to notice that in this, as in so many other movements conducive to the welfare of the citizens of London and of the country at large, the Corporation of London were pioneers both by precept and example. On the 26th May, 1853, two years before the passing of the Free Libraries Acts, the committee reported on a reference relative to the establishment of a free library and a free circulating library; the subject being remitted for further inquiry, they, on the 13th October, 1853, brought

up a second report, in which they warmly supported the proposition, and gave it as their opinion: "That the establishment of a free library and a free circulating library would be the means of introducing the works of the most approved authors to the homes and firesides of the inhabitants of this City, give an impulse to diligent and thoughtful reading, and encourage the pursuit of studies the result of which would extend the boundaries of human knowledge and national civilization." With a view to carrying out these objects, they further suggested that an Act of Parliament should be applied for, and that previous thereto the Lord Mayor should be requested to convene a public meeting of merchants, bankers, and other inhabitants of the City, to procure their aid and support to such an undertaking, and thereby give effect to Her Most Gracious Majesty's declaration in her speech at the conclusion of the previous session of Parliament, expressing her desire to extend and improve the national education, to develop and encourage industry, art, and science, and to elevate the moral and social condition, and thereby promote the welfare and happiness of her people. The report was again considered on the 3rd November, 1853, and was then agreed to, but no further steps appear to have been taken under this reference, probably on account of Mr. Ewart's proposal to bring forward a bill upon the subject. On the 11th October, 1855, however, after the passing of "The Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1855," the Common Council requested the Lord Mayor to convene a public meeting of all persons rated to the consolidated rate, to determine whether its provisions should be adopted within the City of London. A meeting was accordingly held at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, on the 5th November, 1855, at which several members of the Corporation took an active part, but ultimately the proposition to establish a free library in the City was rejected by the ratepayers.¹ A pamphlet also appeared about this time written by a late chairman of the committee of this Library, the late Sir Charles Reed, entitled "Why Not? a plea for a free Library and Museum in the City of London, established without taxation."

Instructions were received by the committee, on the 28th February, 1856, to consider by what means the Library might be made more available for the use of the Corporation and the citizens of London. As a result of the committee's proposals, in December following the Library was thrown open to readers by ticket, and permission was given to members of the Corporation to borrow books from certain

¹ Saunders' *Guildhall Library*, 1869, p. 35-37.

sections of the Library for home reading. To carry out these recommendations it was found necessary to appoint a sub-librarian, and Mr. William Henry Overall was elected to that office in June, 1857. A new catalogue of the Library, prepared by the librarian, Mr. Alchin, was printed in 1859. In the same year the Library received an interesting collection of the writings of Hackney Non-conformist Ministers, mostly Unitarian, which had been formed by the donor, Mr. John Robert Daniel Tyssen. The collection numbers over 1000 volumes, and the authors include Belsham, Burder, Lindsey, Price, Priestley, Wakefield, and many others; the editions of the works of some writers being so numerous as almost to amount to a bibliography. The committee's allowance for the purchase of books was increased on the 3rd April, 1862, from £200 to £300 per annum.

In Jul 1863, the custody of the valuable library belonging to the Dutch Church in Austin Friars was offered to and accepted by the Corporation. Among the printed books, which number nearly 2000 volumes, are the first Dutch Bible 1477, Froissart's *Croniques*, editio princeps 1495, and the Trevisa *Livy* of 1485. The manuscripts include a Dutch Bible, in two volumes, dated 1360, with the signatures of the sheets well preserved towards the end of the second volume, as recently noticed by Mr. Blades; and a fine copy of the Koran which was used by Sale for the purposes of his translation. There is also a collection of letters from Erasmus, Calvin, Beza, Cranmer, and other Reformers, and the correspondence of Abraham Ortelius, of Antwerp, with the principal learned men of his time. The latter collection is being published by the authorities of the Dutch Church, under the editorship of Mr. J. H. Hessels. I should also mention that the old catalogues prepared by Cæsar Calendrinus, the librarian of the Church, are well worth the notice of the librarians present. The advantage of removing these valuable works from neglected cupboards of a City church to the shelves of a Library, where, under proper restrictions, they are freely accessible to all, is self-evident. It may be hoped that the sister Library of the French Protestant Church, which has suffered in time past from careless guardianship, may before long be preserved in the Guildhall Library beside the books of the Dutch Church.

In consequence of the advancing age of Mr. Alchin, the librarian, an addition was made to the staff in 1864, and the present writer entered the library in April of that year as a junior assistant. Early in 1865, on the death of Mr. Alchin, Mr. Overall was appointed to succeed him in the office of librarian. In 1867, the collection of

maps, prints and drawings, was arranged and placed in portfolios, and a new catalogue prepared and printed. In May, 1868, an old minute book of the Ward of Cheap was deposited in the library by the authorities of the Ward. The committee thereupon issued a circular to the several wards and parishes asking whether they would be willing to deposit their records in the library not only for safe custody, but also to make archives of so much importance available for historical research. No general response was made at the time to this request, partly because the library did not then possess a fire-proof receptacle; but several volumes of ward and parish records have since been received. Hopes are also entertained of others being forthcoming, especially since Dr. Freshfield has shown what great value these local records possess as illustrating our national history.

The time had at length come when the Guildhall Library was to be provided with a home more suitable to its needs and importance, and more favourable to its future growth. The rooms, or rather cupboards, in which its books were stowed away were considered unworthy of the library at its establishment, and three years later, in 1831, the committee were empowered to consider "whether there are any premises attached to or connected with the Guildhall which can be converted into a handsome and capacious library worthy of the Corporation, or any ground similarly situated on which such a library can be built." This was but the first of a long series of references and plans which came to no result, until, in the year 1869, Dr. William Sedgwick Saunders, then chairman of the library committee, drew a forcible picture of the inconvenience, danger, and discredit of the existing accommodation in a pamphlet entitled "*The Guildhall Library, its origin and progress; being an appeal to the Corporation of London for its reconstruction,*" a copy of which he sent to each member of the Court of Common Council. I have freely borrowed from Dr. Saunders's able pamphlet many particulars for the present paper. This enthusiastic and well-considered appeal was successful, and the author had the satisfaction of carrying in the Court of Common Council a motion for the erection of a new Library and museum, at a cost, exclusive of fittings, of £25,000. It was also decided that the Library should be freely opened to the public without ticket or any other formality. The work of superintending the erection of the building was entrusted to a committee of thirteen gentlemen, of whom Dr. Saunders was appointed chairman, and the public opening of the new Library took place on the 5th November, 1872, though it was not ready for the admission of readers until the 10th of March following.

The straggling series of apartments in which the Library had been hidden away were avowedly only a makeshift, and yet had to suffice for over forty years. Most of the old readers whom I meet express a lingering regret at the change. For the few who had the entrée (and not more than twenty readers could be accommodated at any one time), the apartments were very cozy and comfortable, partaking more of the luxury of a club than of the hospitality usually afforded by a public library. The new building, designed by the late Sir Horace Jones, with the assistance of Mr. Charles Baily, consists of a Library which will accommodate 150 readers, a reading room for handy books of reference, with a museum and strong rooms in the basement. The old building occupied the site of the corridor which forms the approach to the present Library from the Guildhall porch. The committee's confidence in the future development of the institution was not misplaced; the yearly attendance of readers and visitors rose at once from 14,316 in 1868, the last year of the old Library, to 173,559 in 1874, the first complete year of the new.

I must now briefly summarise the incidents of special interest in the progress of the Library up to the present time. On the opening of the new building great additions were made to the staff, which, for eight years previously, had consisted only of the late Mr. Overall and myself. Six attendants were appointed, and a clerk to take charge of readers' tickets. Other additional appointments were made in 1876 and 1880, when the Library was opened to readers in the evening and on Saturdays; and with a view to make the double staff complete for alternate evening duty, the committee recommended the appointment of an additional sub-librarian in July, 1888. The staff now consists of a librarian, two sub-librarians, two assistants, and ten attendants, and by the kind consideration of the committee the heavy burden which was felt from the pressure of night duty has been materially lightened. In 1873 a great addition was made to the books in the departments of commerce and fine arts out of the bequest of Alderman Sir D. Salomons, which I have already mentioned. In the same year the Company of Clockmakers deposited their valuable library and museum of clocks and watches in the custody of the corporation, and a catalogue of the books and specimens was prepared by Mr. Overall in 1875. The Shipwrights' Company have also presented at various times books relating to shipping and navigation, and it may be trusted that the example of these companies will be followed by the rest, so that the technical works in the Library may include the best books published in connection with each of the crafts represented by the various

guilds. There is no class of book in the Library which better deserves to be increased.

In 1877 I was privileged to attend the International Conference of Librarians, and, like most of those who were present, received much benefit from the valuable papers and suggestions contributed, more particularly those coming from the gentlemen who formed the deputation from America. One of the results was the formation of a card catalogue, which, with the zealous help of the library staff, was designed and completed between 1878 and 1883. Of this catalogue it is only necessary to say here that it is now indispensable to both officers and readers, and seems to have been appreciated by other librarians, judging from the frequent applications which are received from all quarters for particulars of its construction. In 1879 the catalogue of the Dutch Church Library appeared, having been prepared by Mr. Overall, with the co-operation of the late Mr. William Brace and myself. I should also mention that in 1876 a second edition of the catalogue of the circulating Library was issued, of which a new edition is now being prepared; the number of books in this portion of the Library now amounts to 10,000 volumes.

In June, 1888, the Library sustained a severe loss by the death of the late librarian, Mr. Overall. He had been connected with the Library since 1857, and had served the Corporation altogether for forty years. His loss has been deeply felt, not only by the Corporation, but also by the Members of this Association, in which for many years he took so active a part. On the 18th July, 1888, as an acknowledgment of my 25 years' service, the committee honoured me by a unanimous election to the principal post. Consequent upon the vacancy thus caused in the office of sub-librarian, Mr. E. M. Borrajo, who had rendered valuable assistance in the preparation of the new catalogue for the four previous years, was appointed senior sub-librarian, and Mr. Bernard Kettle, who had held the office of ticket clerk for eight years, was appointed junior sub-librarian. The new general catalogue, the first volume of which has already been completed, will be issued in a few weeks, the addenda containing the additions up to date being now about to be sent to press.¹

There has been no time to trace in this address the growth of the museum, but I may mention that important additions have recently been made to the collection of old London signs. The committee have entrusted Mr. J. E. Price with the re-arrangement of

¹ The additions have been brought down to June inclusive.

the Roman and mediæval English sections, and a catalogue of the entire collection, which has long been wanted, will shortly be prepared. The work of the library committee does not end, as might be supposed, with the management of the Library, but various additional duties have devolved upon them from time to time, principally in connection with the civic records which are more immediately under their care. Their valuable reports upon this subject, and the magnificent series of works published under their direction during the last 25 years, entitle them to be called the Record Commissioners of the Corporation. The responsibilities of the committee have lately been still further increased by the successful establishment of an Art Gallery under their care and supervision.

The lapse of sixteen years since the opening of the new Library, years of great progress in all respects, has severely taxed the capacity even of the present building. The accommodation for storing books is already exhausted, and the dimensions of the reading room were soon found to be inadequate, the need for its extension having long been under the consideration of the committee. Even the Library itself is often inconveniently filled with readers, and the Museum is hopelessly crowded with antiquities. The total number of visitors in the year 1888 was 396,720, of whom nearly 150,000 were readers in the Library, the rest being visitors to the reading room and museum. The number of books has been recently counted, and amounts to over 40,000 works, contained in 57,737 volumes. From a return as to the character of the books read, which has been prepared for the committee, it is gratifying to observe that fiction amounts to only 16·56 per cent., history and magazines each 7·04, theology 6·6, biography 5·37, useful arts 5·28, science 4·58, poetry 4·49, topography 4·4, philology 3·34, foreign literature 3·25, genealogy 3·17, *Encyclopædia Britannica* 2·73, fine arts 2·64, travels 2·46, philosophy 2·37, Greek and Latin classics 2·20, music 2·02, archaeology 1·49, politics 1·32, commerce 1·23, drama 1·14, law 0·61, and bibliography 0·35.

In the course of this brief sketch it has been abundantly shown with what anxious care the Corporation and its library committee have laboured to make the Guildhall Library worthy of its name, and as useful as possible to the public at large. It may be doubted whether they have been supported in this by the wealthy citizens of London to the extent which was reasonably anticipated by the zealous chairman of 1869, who, in his pamphlet already referred to, quotes some remarks from Trübner's *Literary Record* for August, 1866, which I venture to think are worthy of repetition although nearly twenty-three years have since passed by. The writer, after instancing

the noble benefactions of John Jacob Astor for a library in New York, and of Joshua Bates, a London merchant, who endowed the magnificent library of Boston, Massachusetts, writes as follows: "Many smaller towns and cities throughout England have voluntarily taxed themselves under the provisions of the Act of Parliament referred to, and have established libraries, most of which are rendering immense service to the cause of education. London, which, of all other cities in the world, owes most of its position to the intelligence, education, and activity of its citizens, stands, to our thinking, degraded and disgraced for its apathy in this matter. Is there no public spirit among our bankers and merchants equal to that which has made John Jacob Astor's name one to be carried down to the remotest posterity, accompanied by the thanks and blessings of those whose intellectual advancement has been promoted by his princely liberality?

. . . . Among the bankers, merchants, and tradesmen of our City there are men who have felt it an honour to enrol themselves in the ranks of literature, . . . we call upon them to be up and doing in this matter; let them initiate measures for the establishment of a free public library in this City—a library which shall be an honour to the first City of the world. . . . The aim of such a movement as we speak of should be to induce the Corporation of the City of London to grant an eligible central site for a building and to contribute from its funds a sum towards the expenses of erection and endowment, such sum to be supplemented by voluntary contributions; and we have such confidence in our fellow-citizens that we believe individual subscriptions will be forthcoming by hundreds and even thousands of pounds towards such an object."

Looking back now over these twenty-three years we see that the Corporation have well performed their part, although the success which the Guildhall Library has attained has not been thus far identified with the names of London's merchant princes. If it be said that the Library is so flourishing that practically nothing more remains to be done, let me attempt to dispel such an illusion. To begin with, *no* library can ever be complete; rare books in every department, and whole classes of books in some departments, are sure to be wanting; choice manuscripts, "Caxtons," and other early printed books, Shakespeare folios and quartos, and beautiful specimens of binding, are always acceptable, and more than acceptable. Then there are collections of books upon special subjects, which afford the individual himself so much pleasure in collecting, and entitle him at the same time to the thanks of the community—these are too often dispersed under the hammer, whilst their proper home is a public

library, where their value can be utilised and appreciated by all. To return however to the special needs of the Guildhall Library; the London collection is, of course, very far from perfect, and rare books concerning London, or from the press of old London printers, which money could rescue, are being sent over the sea every year to American libraries and private collectors.

But the need which is most felt by readers of the Guildhall Library is that of a public circulating library. The requests for permission to take books home for study are constant, and at times almost painful to refuse. The conditions of study are more favourable in the privacy of home than in the necessary restrictions and the frequently crowded state of a public library, and many persons can enjoy the advantages of a library if allowed to borrow books for home reading who are prevented by bodily infirmity or nervous affliction from attending at a public reading room. How can this want be supplied? It has long been the wish of the Corporation to extend the usefulness of the Library in this direction, and so lately as December last, the present Lord Mayor, who is working nobly to make his year of office a year of substantial benefit to the City of London, expressed his great desire to see the establishment of a free circulating library. There seems to me but one way in which it can be done. The matter is in the hands of the citizens themselves. Let them follow the example set by so many of the London districts and consent to the adoption of the Free Library Acts in the City of London. Funds have been provided by the Charity Commissioners out of the Parochial Charities Fund to establish circulating libraries in the large parishes of Cripplegate and Bishopsgate, and with this substantial assistance there can be little doubt that a $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rate would amply suffice for the purpose of providing the rest of the City with free circulating libraries. This alone is wanted to supplement the work already achieved by the Corporation in the establishment of the Guildhall Library.

CHARLES WELCH.



Was Richard de Bury an Impostor ?¹

THE salient facts as to Richard De Bury with which every reader is familiar are supposed to be (1) that he was an excellent Bishop in the time of Edward III; (2) that he was not only a collector of books, but a scholar and patron of scholars; (3) that he bestowed his collection upon Durham College, Oxford, for the use of the University; and, finally, that he wrote a treatise on the love of books, called the "Philobiblon."

If, however, we are to believe (1) that, so far from being a man of noble character, he was an ambitious self-seeker, who bought his way to preferment; (2) that his collecting of books was merely due to his desire to appear a great scholar; (3) that his books never went to Oxford at all, but were sold to defray the debts incurred by his extravagance; and (4) that he did not even write the book which bears his name,—then I think it must be admitted that his claim to the affection and reverence which have been bestowed upon his memory by so many generations of scholars and book-lovers will be seriously shaken, and that some of his warmest admirers, in a sudden revulsion of feeling, may be tempted to say that Richard De Bury was an impostor.

The literary historians and bibliographers have found no language too extravagant to be applied to De Bury. It is unnecessary to recall the praises of Trithemius and Leland, of Pits and Godwin, of Bzovius and Naudé, of James and Cave, of Andres and Dibdin. It will be sufficient to quote a few of the latest authorities.

Mr. W. S. Gibson, who made considerable preparations for an elaborate biography of the Bishop, says: "Richard De Bury was the most learned Englishman of his day, and was justly distinguished among the virtuous and worthy ecclesiastics, whose memory sheds lustre on the brilliant reign of Edward III." "De Bury had an unbounded love of literature, and made munificent provision for the preservation and advancement of learning; and the noble figure of the good Bishop, both scholar and statesman, shines calmly through the eventful scenes of a warlike age, and throws a lustre on the most brilliant reign in English history."

The late Deputy-Keeper of the Records, Sir Thomas Hardy, concludes his account of the Bishop by saying: "No English prelate has left a more unblemished reputation than Richard De Bury. His moral character seems to have been without reproach, and

¹ Read before the Library Association.

his piety and gentleness such as eminently became his high and dignified estate. His memory will be always esteemed, if indeed not venerated, by the historical scholar."

Prof. Creighton, in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, though he speaks of him as "not so much a scholar; he was rather a patron and an encourager of learning," compares his position in England with that of Petrarch in Italy, and thinks that "he was penetrated by the chief ideas of humanism." "Nor was he selfish in his pursuit. His aim was to raise the intellectual standard, and to provide the necessary materials for students." "He was an admirable ecclesiastic, beloved for his kindness and charity."

Finally, the present Deputy-Keeper of the Records, Mr. Maxwell Lyte, in his recent *History of the University of Oxford*, writes that "Of all the prelates of the time Richard of Bury was the most enthusiastic in his devotion to learning. . . . The generous lover of the poor, he is chiefly remarkable as a lover of literature."

These writers form the latest links in an unbroken chain of testimony in favour of De Bury's character as a pious and excellent ecclesiastic and a genuine enthusiast for literature; and, so far as I know, no dissenting voice has ever made itself heard. Whatever may have been whispered to the contrary, has, at all events, not found its way into print, and no hint of it is discernible in the long series of the Bishop's biographers. The four writers just cited all assume that De Bury's contemplated library at Oxford became an accomplished fact, and none of them seems to doubt that he himself wrote the *Philobiblon*.

It is true, indeed, that long ago the actual authorship of the *Philobiblon* was claimed for Robert Holkot, the Dominican, who was for some time a member of the Bishop's household. This has always been firmly believed by the Order of which he was a distinguished member, from Pignon and Altamura to Berardelli and Father Denifle; and the claim has been allowed by Hearne and Tanner, by Warton and Shirley. It may be, indeed, that the fact, if it be a fact, that Holkot wrote the book at De Bury's suggestion, and as a manifesto of the Bishop's own love for books, need not of itself lessen our admiration of his character, unless he deliberately intended that the book should pass as his own. But it would of course deprive him of any claim to our regard as an author, and would lend a cruel irony to the complaint of books in the *Philobiblon*: "*Vitricorum nobis nolentibus affiguntur vocabula et verorum patrum nomina filiis subducuntur.*"

I believe that I have been the first person to suggest that there

is room for very serious doubt whether De Bury's supposed library at Oxford ever had any real existence. The grounds for this suggestion are: first, the absence of any positive evidence that his books ever went to Oxford, and the fact that no trace of any of them is discoverable there; next, the fact that the Bishop seems to have died insolvent, as shown by the inability of his executors to redeem certain vestments pledged by De Bury to Lord Neville, and the circumstance that they undoubtedly sold some portion of his books; and then the Bishop's own account of the plan in the *Philobiblon*, from which it appears that it was only part of the larger scheme for the establishment of a College, to which we know, from public documents, that the Bishop had bound himself *and his successors* by agreement with the King, but which, we also know, was only carried out by his successor, Hatfield. Now this account was written in January, 1345, and the Bishop died in the following April—"longa infirmitate decoctus." On the whole of the facts of the case, as they thus present themselves, it seems only too probable that the library myth has simply been developed out of the Bishop's account of his intentions in the *Philobiblon*. As indeed there appears to be no doubt about the Bishop's intentions, even the demolition of this myth might not seriously affect our estimate of his character.

A few days ago, however, I happened to mention to Mr. E. M. Thompson, the Keeper of the MSS. (and since Principal Librarian) of the British Museum, my doubts on the subject of De Bury's library, and he at once directed my attention to a passage in a contemporary chronicler, which has never yet been published, and appears to have been overlooked by everyone who has written of De Bury.

The passage in question occurs in the *Chronica sui Temporis* of Adam de Murimuth, a book which has been twice edited, first by Hall in 1722, and again by Hog (for the English Historical Society) in 1846. Hall printed from MSS. presenting an earlier version of the work, coming down only to 1337. Hog indeed printed from a version extending to 1346, and even used and ranked highly the very MS. in which this passage occurs, but by an extraordinary oversight altogether omitted it.

Adam de Murimuth, the writer of this chronicle, was a Canon of St. Paul's, who must have been born about the same time as De Bury, but appears to have survived him by many years, and later in his life to have edited a second edition or recension of his own chronicle, carrying it down to the year 1346. He held numerous ecclesiastical preferments; he was a distinguished lawyer and appears

to have acted as proctor at the Papal Court for the University of Oxford and for the Church of Canterbury. He was also employed by Edward III on important embassies to the Curia. It can hardly be doubted, therefore, that he had ample opportunities of collecting trustworthy information as to the leading public men of his time. The account given by Murimuth of the character and career of Richard De Bury is as follows :—

“Hoc anno, xiiij. die Maii,¹ anno Domini m^occcxlv^o, regni vero dicti regis E. tertii a conquestu decimo nono, obiit Ricardus de Bury, episcopus Dunolmensis, qui ipsum episcopatum et omnia sua beneficia prius habita per preces magnatum et ambitionis vitium adquisivit, et ideo toto tempore suo inopia laboravit et prodigus exstitit in expensis, unde dies suos in gravissima paupertate finivit. Imminente² vero termino vite sue, sui familiares omnia bona sua mobilia rapuerunt, adeo quod moriens unde corpus suum cooperire poterat non habebat, nisi subtunicam³ unius gacionis in camera remanentis. Et, licet idem episcopus fuisset mediocriter literatus, volens tamen magnus clericus reputari, recollegit sibi librorum numerum infinitum, tam de dono quam ex accommodato a diversis monasteriis et ex empto, adeo quod quinque magne carecte non sufficebant pro ipsius vectura librorum. Prior vero et capitulum ecclesie Dunelmensis cito postea, tam timore reservationis apostolice eis communicate quam magnatum precibus informati, dominum Thomam de Attefeld, clericum privati sigilli regis, magis concorditer quam hilariter elegerunt, et ideo Te Deum laudamus flebiliter cantaverunt.”⁴

It is natural to enquire how far this account agrees with other contemporary notices of De Bury. The accounts hitherto known

¹ A mistake for April.

² *Eminente* MS.

³ Altered from *supertunicam* MS.

⁴ For the benefit of those library assistants who have not passed their examination, I may be permitted to translate :—“This year on the 14th of May, in the year of our Lord, mcccxlv, the nineteenth of the reign of King E. third from the conquest, died Richard de Bury, bishop of Durham, who acquired that bishopric and all the benefices he held before it by the prayers of the great and by the vice of ambition, and so all his time suffered from straitness of means, and was prodigal in his expenditure, wherefore he ended his days in most grievous poverty. Now as the end of his life drew nigh, those of his household carried away all his moveable goods, so that dying he had nothing to cover his body withal, save an undershirt of a lackey who stayed in his chamber. And although the said bishop was but slenderly learned, yet, wishing to be reputed a great clerk, he gathered unto himself an infinite number of books, as well by gift as by borrowing from divers monasteries and by buying, insomuch that five great waggons were not enough for the carriage of his own books;” etc.

have been two in number. There is, first, the brief notice of his intellectual character incidentally given by Petrarch, who describes him as "vir ardentis ingenii nec litterarum inscius . . . abditarumque rerum ab adolescentia supra fidem curiosus." Petrarch, when he met De Bury, was a young man of five-and-twenty, and may have been sufficiently flattered by the notice of the Ambassador of Edward III, not to exercise too critical a judgment. The account given in the life of De Bury by William de Chambre is a more elaborate piece of portraiture. Chambre seems to have been an officer of the Convent of Durham, and he tells us that the Bishop was always on excellent terms with the monks. It is obviously a sketch by a friendly hand, and though it presents his personal character in a most amiable light, it also affords two or three significant indications, which hardly tend to refute the statements of Murimuth. First, Chambre says nothing whatever of the *Philobiblon*, or of the contemplated library. Then he describes the Bishop as "sufficientis literaturae"—not a very strong phrase to employ of "the learnedest man of his age." Then he admits the freedom of De Bury's expenditure, though he calls it dapsility, while his statements that the Bishop was buried "non cum honore satis congruo;" that one of his chests, which was supposed to contain money, was found to be filled with nothing more valuable than hair-breeches and linen; and that some of his gifts to the Church were pledged by his executors, agree only too well with the suggestions of poverty contained in the Durham records, and with the more plain and positive assertion of Murimuth.

If the view of De Bury's career and attainments, and of his moral and intellectual character, expressed in this passage be anything like the truth, it can hardly fail to remove him from the pedestal he has so long occupied. There are indeed indications in Murimuth's chronicle that he was of a somewhat sarcastic temper; and it may be that he was one of those jealous or envious persons, by whose censure the Bishop tells us in the *Philobiblon* "non plus quam canonicorum latratibus movebatur." But though they were engaged in similar lines of public employment, there seems to be no evidence that they ever came into collision; and whatever may have been Murimuth's prejudices or dislikes, his authority as a chronicler is too respectable for us easily to dismiss his allegations of fact. And we cannot but see how those allegations impeach the traditional accounts of the Oxford library and the authorship of the *Philobiblon*.

Murimuth says nothing either of the *Philobiblon* or of the Oxford library. The books, indeed, were there; but that is all: it is obvious

how the statements as to De Bury's poverty harmonize with the other indications to which we have referred, and support the view that his books, instead of going to Oxford, had to be disposed of by his executors for the payment of his debts. And the statement as to his very moderate learning in the same way lends powerful support to the suggestion made so long ago, that the book was written by another pen. Again the deliberate judgment of Murimuth is quite inconsistent with the eulogies of his high and noble character, which have been pronounced by so many generations of his admirers. In this account of his last moments, Pope might have found a fit companion-piece to his picture of the dying Villiers "in the worst inn's worst room." But could any poetic skill heighten the force of the tragic scene called up by the bare statement of the chronicler, that he, who had held the highest offices in Church and State, who had visited Popes and Sovereigns in almost regal pomp, and had sat on the throne of the magnificent Carlepho and the haughty Bec, was in his dying moments robbed by his own familiars, and was fain to cover his nakedness with a poor garment borrowed from one of his meanest servitors?

Are we then to discredit the evidence of Murimuth, or does his account of De Bury's life and death furnish another illustration of the bitter truth of that saying of Voltaire: *un esprit juste en lisant l'histoire n'est presque occupé qu'à la réfuter?*

ERNEST C. THOMAS.



The Origin of the Free Libraries and Museums Act.

ON a cold winter's morning in 1844 two enthusiasts for popular education—especially art education—were standing over the fireplace in one of the class rooms of the then Government School of Design in the Royal Manchester Institution. The snow was falling fast in Mosley Street, on which the windows looked down, and both felt themselves unmistakably weather-bound after the dismissal of the morning class, which in those early days of popular art teaching assembled from eight to ten o'clock. One of them was the honorary secretary of the school, the late Mr. George Jackson, and the other was Mr. George Wallis, then the head master of that school, now Keeper of the Art Collections, South Kensington Museum.

They had been discussing the question of the best mode of promoting a popular taste for art, as distinct from technical art teaching, a matter which had been the subject of talk with them on many previous occasions when conferring together on the business of the school; and finding themselves held in durance by the weather, they made a merit of necessity, and went a little more fully into what was certainly "a hobby" with both.

Mr. Jackson suggested that Mr. Wallis should embody certain utterances in which he had from time to time indulged, in a systematic paper on the subject, to be read at one of the meetings held in the lecture theatre of the Royal Manchester Institution some time during the winter, and thus get the question properly discussed. Mr. Wallis, however, maintained that Mr. Jackson himself was the most proper person to prepare and read the paper, inasmuch as, so early as 1837, the period when the House of Commons' Committee on Arts and Manufactures had reported, he had prepared and read two papers at the Manchester Mechanics' Institution on "Schools of Design," in which he advocated something like museums in connection with them. The friendly contention ended in Mr. Jackson undertaking to prepare a paper, on condition that Mr. Wallis would assist him, and help in the discussion to follow, as he considered that Mr. Wallis had rather a strong and telling way of putting his arguments in favour of practical operations, as distinguished from the vague dilettanisms with which art questions were treated at that period, as if pictorial art were "the be all and end all" of the matter.

The incident above named has been thought worth recording, as the two friends always looked back in after years with interest to

the circumstances which compelled them to await the abatement of the snowstorm, and the enforced continuation of the discussion which had been commenced, instead of going about their usual morning business.

The result of this compulsory conference after the morning art class was a paper on "The Means of Improving Public Taste," and it was read by Mr. Jackson at a *conversazione* held in the Royal Manchester Institution, on 25th November, 1844, Mr. James W. Fraser, a well-known art connoisseur and able amateur painter, taking the chair. The paper, and the discussion which followed, excited so much interest, that it was proposed to hold a public meeting for the further consideration and illustration and discussion of the subject, as a matter of importance to the then awakening interest in art, in its various bearings, in Manchester. This meeting was held in the Theatre of the Manchester Athenæum, on 30th November, 1844, Mr. Richard Cobden, M.P., taking the chair. The paper was again read by special request, and the subject discussed at length, as recorded in the Manchester newspapers of the time. Amongst those present was Mr. Joseph Brotherton, M.P. for Salford, who was deeply interested in the question, as was Mr. Cobden. Both spoke on the occasion, and expressed satisfaction with the fact that the matter had been brought forward, and so far ventilated by the arguments used and by the illustrations given of the value of Art Museums.

After the meeting, a brief conference was held in the lecturer's room attached to the theatre, and Mr. Brotherton proposed that if Mr. Jackson and Mr. Wallis would supply him with material for drafting a bill to empower corporations, and the governing bodies of large towns to establish museums, and support them, as proposed, by a penny rate, he, Mr. Brotherton, would undertake to bring the matter before Mr. William Ewart, M.P. for Liverpool, who had in 1836-7, carried the proposal to establish Schools of Design to a successful issue, as Chairman of the Committee on "Arts and Manufactures." Of course, Mr. Brotherton's suggestion was at once carried out, and he was supplied with all that was considered necessary, to enable Mr. Ewart and himself to put the matter in the form of a bill, for discussion in the House of Commons.

On the 6th March, 1845, Mr. Ewart moved in the House of Commons, for leave to bring in a bill to enable corporations, and the proper authorities in large towns, to establish and maintain museums of art, and Mr. Brotherton placed his name on the back of the bill. A very interesting debate followed, and there was a singularly unanimous expression of feeling in favour of the powers proposed to be

given to corporations and proper representative bodies. Sir Robert Peel (then Premier) spoke strongly in favour of the measure, as was expected from his personal interest in art. Mr. Joseph Hume also supported it. Mr. Brotherton, as a matter of course, argued in its favour, and so did Lord John Manners. Mr. Shiel concluded the debate, by advocating Sunday opening, which certainly did not help the proposal with the House, and had quite the opposite effect out of doors. The result, however, was the "Act for encouraging the establishment of Museums in large towns."

Owing to various circumstances, not at all favourable to the practical working of the Act, not the least difficult of which were the conditions on which corporations could establish such museums, as were intended by the promoters, and support them properly on a *half-penny rate*, to which the proposal of a penny had been reduced during the debates upon the bill, the act was practically a dead letter; but during the session of 1850, Mr. Ewart, stimulated to further action by the early advocates of art education, and their allies of the free library movement, carried an amended Act, by repealing that of 1845, and giving powers to Town Councils to establish public libraries and museums, to be supported from the rates.

Manchester was very appropriately, the first corporation to take advantage of this amended Act, and through the exertions and liberality of the then Mayor, Sir John Potter,¹ established the first public free library, in a capacious building, built for a "Hall of Science," in Castle Field, by the followers of Mr. Robert Owen, and which fortunately was in the market for sale.

The Free Libraries and Museums Act has been amended several times since 1850, but there is one deficiency which still calls for attention and amendment, so far as regards Museums of Art, either separate or in connection with Free Libraries, and that is, giving town councils the power to enact byelaws by which a small admis-

¹ In 1882, a controversy arose in the Manchester newspapers, about the early establishment of free libraries, and it was stated on one side that Sir John Potter first originated the idea, and this was as categorically denied on the other side. It happened that at the time Birmingham was celebrating the re-opening of the free library in that town (after its disastrous destruction by fire), with the addition of a temporary art museum and gallery, and Mr. George Wallis, who had at one time been Head Master of the Birmingham School of Art, addressed a letter to the *Birmingham Daily Post*, reciting the origin of the Free Libraries and Museums Act, as likely to be of interest to his old friends of that town; and in the presence of the controversy going on at Manchester, a similar letter was sent to the *Manchester Examiner and Times*. The latter published it on 5th June, 1882, and the *Daily Post* on the next day. Both letters simply stated the leading facts given in this article.

sion fee may be charged on, say, *three* days a week, such fee to be fixed by the Town Council, in accordance with their view of the wants and circumstances of the locality, but never to exceed *sixpence* for each person, securing at the same time, that on three other days per week the admission shall be free, or shall not exceed one penny for each person.

The fund which would thus be raised without injury to any one, and in some localities to the satisfaction of a considerable portion of the community, would be very considerable, and would be especially valuable as a means for providing for the purchase of suitable objects for the museum, which in many instances the fund derived from the rates cannot afford.

The first attempt to establish a local Museum of Art on a sound and permanent basis was made by the Corporation of Nottingham in 1877-8. In obtaining a special Act of Parliament to enable the Town Council to rent and adapt Nottingham Castle to the purposes of a museum, care was taken to obtain authority to charge such fees for admission as might be considered equitable. The result has been highly satisfactory, and the revenue has gone on increasing from year to year, and enables the museum committee, with the sanction of the Town Council, to purchase works of art from time to time, which thus become the property of the town.

The principle of a small charge on certain days in the week, as adopted from its commencement at the South Kensington Museum, is a sound one, and is destined from its usefulness and fairness to all parties to become the rule throughout the country in connection at least with local museums.

Of course the popularity and assured usefulness of Free Libraries has eventually caused their establishment in large numbers throughout the country, and at the present time there are about 180 in existence, providing means for instruction and rational enjoyment the value of which cannot be estimated, but which will be seen in the coming years.

As regards provincial museums of art, in connection with Corporations and other responsible bodies, there are at the present time 38 in official connection with the Science and Art Department, and receiving loans of collections in glass cases, changeable annually from the South Kensington Museum, as part of the system of circulation established in connection with schools of art. In France and Germany, following upon the reports of commissioners sent to South Kensington to obtain information, both countries have adopted the English principle of periodical loans, as presumed more useful than

that of permanent gifts, since greater variety of illustration is secured, and a proper supervision kept, over national property.

Whatever may be the differences of opinion respecting the education of the whole people, no one who desires to see their elevation above the sordid and debasing, and to lead them to higher thoughts and aims, by the enlargement of their ideas, especially in relation to the past, and as a means of promoting their welfare in the future, can reasonably doubt the power and efficacy of free libraries towards that end ; nor can anyone at all conversant with what is going on in other countries in relation to the arts of design as applicable to industry and manufactures, doubt, that art museums with proper facilities for the study of their contents, must give essential aid alike to designers and manufacturers in the competition which has now become inevitable, as the older advocates of Schools of Art and Museums saw half-a-century ago, would come upon England "sooner or later," and rather "sooner" than otherwise.

The strong movement in favour of technical instruction in both special institutions and the common schools of the country, is a proof that the competition is felt to be upon us, and must be met by providing proper means for the elementary and scientific teaching of our future artisans.

Jottings.

Mlle. De Wolska, a Polish lady resident in Paris, is still soliciting support for her project to establish an International Library of Women's Works. She has been labouring at the idea for two or three years and has met with much encouragement. The object of the institution has been defined as the collection in one building of the works of women, scientific and artistic, of all countries and all epochs, and the facilitation of their popularity. We do not feel much sympathy with the proposal. If it succeeds, the library will be a curiosity—nothing more. All the books it contains that are worth reading can be had elsewhere more easily, and it is doing an ill turn to the authoresses of those that are not, to drag them into the light. Does it never strike those enthusiastic ladies who are constantly asserting their mental equality with male man, that to affirm a positive is to raise a question? This equality might have been tacitly admitted, had they not undeceived their admirers by vehemently *asserting it*. We are perfectly sure the individual is not yet born who will promote the establishment of a *male* library to prove the literary superiority of that sex.

The following extract from the Aberdeen Free Library Annual Report has been "going the round of the press :"—"The fact that a small devotional work, entitled 'The Best Match,' was called for (and quickly returned) sixty-five times by readers, chiefly of the female sex, is hardly to be taken as a proof of the popularity of that particular book or of the exceptionally devotional character of the library readers. Rather is it to be taken as one of the many cases where, the substance of the book not realising the hopes raised by the title, it is with all possible speed returned to

the library." The editors seem to be surprised to find that a librarian can also be a humourist. The fact is the terms are often synonymous, but all have not Mr. Robertson's courage to print their humour in annual reports.

The latest exhibition in the King's Library at the British Museum is one of alphabets, from those of the Babylonians and Assyrians down to comparatively modern times.

Verily the darkest hour seems to come just before the dawn. Only a few weeks ago we were sympathising with Mr. Barrett, the excellent librarian of the Mitchell Library, who was compelled to forgo a large slice of the library income just at a time when he was beginning to hope that the public were at last awaking to a sense of the duty they owed to themselves and their library. Under such a blow his long-prayed-for new premises seemed further off than ever—and every earnest librarian will readily imagine what poor Mr. Barrett must have suffered. We are delighted to record (see p. 349) that the cloud has passed, and that a brighter day than has yet shone on the Mitchell Library has dawned.

Everything points to a very successful meeting next week. The reception committee began its work under depressing conditions—some Cassandras going the length of suggesting that there should be no meeting at all this year—but thanks to the zeal and energy of the promoters, and the admirable management of the treasurers and secretaries of the reception committee, we are much mistaken if the 1889 meeting will not prove as enjoyable as any on record.

It is difficult to explain to people, who have not lived in London, how hard it is in the metropolis to get up any enthusiasm—and still more a good subscription list—for a special object. We would undertake to raise a subscription in Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool or Manchester, in half the time it would take to raise a similar amount in London. Of course we do not refer to great national and charitable objects. But ask a Londoner for a subscription in aid of the library movement, or to give a dinner to its apostles, and he will at once show you a list, nearly as long as his face, of yearly subscriptions he *must* pay.

In the great provincial centres it is different. There are plenty of calls on the purses of the liberal, but the annual events that demand support are few, and a healthy local patriotism meets half-way the gentlemanly beggar, who asks for a trifle to give a welcome to a peripatetic society. "Is it a new thing? All the better. Manchester shall lead the way!" "What! has Manchester done it—then Liverpool shall do better!" And so the task of the happy reception committee-man is made easy, and one town vies with another in generosity.

Unfortunately, the season is too late for excursions. Had it been possible to hold the meeting early in September (but London is empty in September), nothing could have been more delightful than a trip up the river, stopping for lunch at the "Star and Garter," and dining at the "Mitre," after a stroll amidst the glories of Hampton Court. Perhaps a time will come.

A most cordial invitation to meet at Reading next year has been received from Mr. W. J. Palmer on behalf of the Free Library Committee, of which he is chairman. We hope that whatever the temptations may be to go elsewhere everyone will vote 'solid' for Reading, and so give the Association an opportunity of seeing at work what is in many re-

spects a model library, and afford to those who have not yet enjoyed it a sight of the most beautiful river in the world.

The L. A. U. K. is not a testimonializing society, and we are glad of it. The "tokens" which are constantly being *exchanged* between members of Mutual Admiration Societies smack too much of *reciprocity*. But the movement now afoot to mark our sense of Mr. Harrison's long services is in every way fitting and laudable. The newer members should not be expected to subscribe, but the older ones should feel it a privilege to do so.

All zealous librarians will be glad to know of a plan for swelling their circulation returns that has the advantage of costing nothing and involves no wear and tear of the books. Like all truly great inventions it is simplicity itself. In nearly all towns members of committee and public officials are allowed the use of books from the Reference Library, and to keep them an indefinite time. MEM: *Renew these entries every week and count each renewal as a new issue.* Were it not for the invincible modesty of the inventor we should propose that a medal be struck in his honour.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

PRACTICAL LIBRARIANSHIP: AN APPEAL.

We continue to receive urgent appeals from young librarians and assistants to devote a space to the methods of practical librarianship. *It is not space we want but writers.* It is little short of a disgrace to the craft that people in search of practical hints to aid them in their daily work must always turn to American publications.

If an English Librarian hits upon a happy plan, or invents a new method or appliance, he is either so humble that he thinks everyone else has a better or as good a one, or is so greedy that he keeps it close and would fain patent it. Which is the true motive?

Our American cousins act very differently. If it is only a new dodge for a paste pot, or an improvement on the good old fashioned way of moistening a gummed label, straightway it is sent off to "Notes" or the "Journal." And if this results in an *embarras de richesse*, all the better for the young librarian.

Once more we appeal to practical librarians to send us notes of their methods and appliances, and if they do not respond the shame will be theirs if we have to fall back upon scissors and paste, and the American journals.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.

In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

ABERDEEN.—The designs of Mr. Alexander Brown for the new library buildings have been selected by the Committee.

ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE.—After a short agitation the Free Libraries Act has been adopted by this town. The result of the voting was declared

on September 6th as follows: for the adoption of the Act—1159; against—421; majority for—738.

BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.—The Spain-lane Unitarian Library, a "public subscription library," was opened on 2nd September at a public meeting at which some interesting speeches were made. The Rev. W. P. Spooner said that no step taken could be of such signal advantage to the town as giving the rising young people a public library, and although he had been on a platform with the Mayor before and had parted without a quarrel, he should quarrel with him this evening. The Mayor said that Boston could not afford a free library. He maintained that it could afford one. It was not a question of affording—it was a question of will. There was plenty of money to be had for almost everything they put their hands to, and it was only the will that was required to start a library.

BRECHIN.—The anonymous donor of £5000 for a building to be devoted to the purposes of a public library and reading room has acquiesced in a suggestion of the town council that £2000 of that sum should be invested and the income therefrom applied to the purchase of books. At a town's meeting held on 2nd September the thanks of the citizens were formally expressed for the generous gift, and arrangements were made for carrying out the donor's intentions.

BRISTOL.—The well-managed Free Libraries of Bristol continue to increase in extent and usefulness. It is now proposed to enlarge and improve some of the branch libraries, particularly that which is situated in the district called St. Philip's.

CARDIFF.—The building of the new wing to the Central Library has been postponed, with the intention of ascertaining the possibility of having an entirely new building. The present building is declared by several members of the Library Committee to be altogether "bad for the purpose."

DENTON, near MANCHESTER.—The Denton and Haughton Free Library, erected in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, was opened on August 31st, by Alderman Walton Smith, Chairman of the Manchester Free Libraries' Committee. The building, of which an engraving was given in the *Manchester Guardian* of the same day, includes provision for science classes. Denton and Haughton are the centre of the hatting industry, and the chemical classes are certain to be of great technical value to the workers. The entire scheme has involved an expenditure of nearly £3,000. When it is borne in mind that the township has a population of only 15,000 it will be seen that more than ordinary generosity has been shown by the people within the district. From this time forward the Local Board take charge of the institution, for the maintenance of which a penny rate will have to be levied. The first meeting was held in March, 1887, when the scheme was shaped. Some £500 was at once promised, and a committee was formed. On April 18, a public meeting confirmed the scheme. The Free Libraries Act was unanimously adopted by the ratepayers on 31st May. A little later, from a competition by 20 architects, the designs of Messrs. Lindley, of Ashton, were accepted. Mr. E. J. Sidebotham laid the foundation stone on the 28th April, 1888. The contributions falling short of the required amount, a bazaar was held, which Mrs. Scott, of Reddish, opened. This was very successful, a profit of £885 being realised.

EDINBURGH. The nationalisation of the Advocates' Library was, as intimated last month, the subject of a motion in the Edinburgh Town Council, on July 30. Councillor Macpherson brought forward the question and the Council unanimously approved of an instruction being given to the Lord Provost's Committee to take the matter into further consideration

and to report. In the meantime, the proposal has occupied the attention of the Edinburgh newspapers, and has met with hearty approval.

GLASGOW : MITCHELL LIBRARY.—The Town Council have approved of a proposition to acquire a building occupied in Miller Street by the Corporation Water Department, for the purposes of the Mitchell Library. The building and site were in 1877 valued at £26,000, but they could now be acquired at a much less figure. The cost of structural alterations and new fittings is estimated to come to £7000. When it is altered the building will accommodate 432 readers, as compared with accommodation for 300 in the present building, and 160,000 volumes. The number of volumes at present in the library is about 82,000. The Council have resolved to provide from the surplus revenue of the Gas Trust a sum of £2000 for the requirements of the library for this and next year.

HARROGATE.—Plans for a new library building are in preparation, and in the meantime the Committee have been looking out for "a new or second-hand temporary building."

HAWARDEN.—A neat structure of corrugated iron, wood lined, with a spire, is being erected near the Grammar School, Hawarden, as a free library and reading room. This is the gift of Mr. Gladstone, and it will be supplemented by a further gift of books. There are already two libraries in the village, but this will require neither membership nor fee.

HERTFORD.—On 29th August, the New Public Library and School of Art were opened by the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., whose address was, of course, thoughtful and suggestive.

LEOMINSTER.—Mr. James Rankin, M.P., has promised £1000 towards the building fund for a free library for Leominster, if the rate-payers should adopt the Libraries' Act. A public meeting of rate-payers was held on 13th August, at which a resolution in favour of the adoption of the Libraries' Acts was carried, but a poll was demanded.

LIMERICK.—On Sept. 5th the Limerick Town Council unanimously resolved that the provisions of the Public Libraries Act and the Technical Education Act of the last session should be applied to Limerick. The council agreed to make a rate for the purpose, and committees were appointed to carry out the scheme.

LONDON : BETHNAL GREEN.—The report for the past year is more than encouraging. The progress in a dozen years has been quite phenomenal, for the 500 volumes with which a commencement was made have grown to 20,000. Their very success has been a source of perplexity to the committee, necessitating, as it does, additional enterprise and larger outlay. The entire movement is supported by voluntary aid. On the occasion of his visit the Lord Mayor, as a vice-president, not only pronounced the success to be a marvellous one, but said that the library itself was "one of the most useful institutions in the metropolis." The additions presented to the library during the year were 1,714 volumes, besides 1,551 reviews, magazines, etc. The duplicates are disposed of by grants being made to working lads' institutes, workmen's clubs, coffee palaces, and similar institutions. The plan of posting the advertisement-sheets of the daily papers outside the library, at 7 A.M. every day, for the benefit of those seeking employment is much appreciated. A working-man exclaimed to the caretaker, "It's the best day's work you've ever done for us!" The free illustrated science and other lectures and popular concerts have been more successful than ever. In addition to the above, the evening classes for technical education have been increased; six new classes were added during the year. It is estimated that, through its reading-room, lectures, and classes, the library has benefited some 50,000

persons last year, bringing up the number to over 400,000. The Trustees hope soon to commence building much larger premises, as at present the accommodation is quite inadequate. This will involve an outlay of something like £20,000, towards which Sir J. Tyler has promised £1,000, and the Rev. Dr. Tyler £200.

LONDON: CLAPHAM.—The Free Library will be opened, on 31st October, by Sir John Lubbock.

LONDON: HAMMERSMITH.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* of 2nd September contains an interesting article on the Hammersmith Free Library, of which Mr. Robert Martin is librarian. The library is not yet at work, but a reading room is opened, and it is situated in the mansion in Ravenscourt Park—a place which is declared to be “the pleasantest and prettiest piece of public ground to be found within an equal distance of Bow Bells.” We congratulate Mr. Martin on his lines being cast in such a pleasant place.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—The success of the Lambeth Free Libraries has astonished many people. The libraries were recently closed for a week for cleaning, and when the day of opening arrived it is reported that the doors of each building were besieged by hundreds of people eagerly waiting for their supply of intellectual food, or stimulant as the case might be. Not only so, but all day long the people came pouring in for the same purpose. At West Norwood, 1,148 volumes—or about one-fifth of the whole stock—were taken out in the course of the day, and at the Tate Library the number of books given out in the course of the day amounted to 1,009.

LONDON: PEOPLE'S PALACE.—The *Builder* of September 7th contains a double-page view of the library and reading room of the People's Palace for East London, designed by Mr. E. R. Robson.

LONDON: PUTNEY.—Mr. Chancellor Christie, Chancellor of Manchester, President of the Library Association, has been elected by the Vestry as a Commissioner of the Public Library.

LONDON: WESTMINSTER.—On 20th August Mr. J. Thornhill Harrison, the inspector appointed by the Local Government Board, sat at the Westminster Free Library to hear evidence as to the application made to the board by the local authorities for sanction to borrow a sum of £20,000 for the building of a free public library, baths, and wash-houses for the united parishes of St. Margaret and St. John the Evangelist, the new Church House Corporation having intimated that they desired to acquire the library premises, and the baths and wash-houses having been declared insufficient for existing requirements.—Mr. F. James Smith, architect, explained the plans of the proposed structures, and stated that the Westminster Free Library and Public Baths and Wash-houses were the first institutions of the kind established in the metropolis.—The librarian, Mr. Henry E. Poole, stated the number of readers was increasing every year. They had 20,000 volumes of scientific and general literature on their shelves, and during the past year 74,000 books were issued to readers on the premises, and 72,158 to home readers. Both classes increased every day, and it was imperatively necessary for the commissioners to look out for a new site. A suitable one had been selected in the immediate neighbourhood of the present premises. The Inspector having heard objections to the proposed scheme from rate-payers, said that the whole of the evidence would be placed before the Local Government Board.

MILLOM: CUMBERLAND.—This place has 6,228 inhabitants, and possesses a public library. At a recent meeting of the Local Board, the

librarian having applied for an increase, it was resolved that the salary be raised to 10s. per week.

PRESTWICH, near MANCHESTER.—The suggestion has been made that this village should adopt the Libraries Act, and take over an existing library of 4000 volumes as a start. The matter has been before the Local Board, and it seems likely that something will be done.

STALYBRIDGE.—The opening of the Free Library took place on September 21st, the Mayor of the borough officiating. The library, which was inaugurated in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, is situated in the Town Hall, and contains up to the present some 6,000 volumes. Amongst the chief donors to it are Mr. J. F. Cheetham, formerly M.P. for North Derbyshire, £500; Mr. T. H. Sidebottom, M.P., £500; the members of the family of the late Mr. Alfred Summers, £600, given as a memorial of his interest in this and other educational work; and Messrs. J. F. and H. Knott, £100.

STROUD.—The first Annual Meeting of the Stroud Free Library, which is maintained by subscriptions, was held on 2nd September. The total cost of foundation was £3,567. There are 3,464 volumes in the library, and these have been well used during the year, the total issues being 46,209 or 184 per day. The attendance in the reading rooms averaged 670 per day.

TWICKENHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.—Seventh Annual Report, 1888-9, pp. 11. The formation in the Twickenham Public Library of a permanent Popean collection was one of the modes proposed by the promoters of the late Pope commemoration festival, for celebrating the completion of two centuries from the birth of Alexander Pope. They have handed the balance (£17.), with a list of books suggested, to the committee who are collecting the books. 5,790 vols. are in the lending library, including 281 added during the year; 1,425 vols. are in the reference library, including 134 the year's additions. 49,979 vols. were issued from the lending library, and 1,924 were consulted in the reference library. The penny rate yielded £331. 18s. 2d. Total receipts, including £17. mentioned above, £380. 10s. 6d. Mr. Edwin Maynard is librarian and secretary.

WREXHAM.—It is intended to open the new Free Lending Library building on 1st October, and it is hoped that Mr. Gladstone will perform the ceremony.

Correspondence.

POOLE'S INDEX TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

To the Editor of 'The Library.'

SIR,—Poole's Index to Periodical Literature has *Nature* on the list of periodicals indexed; but on referring to the subjects I find that a long paper and a letter on Subject-Indexes to Periodical Literature contributed to *Nature* (Vols. XVIII, XX) by R. Garnett and J. B. Bailey respectively, are not indexed. The paper by Dr. Garnett is, however, entered under Indexes, Subject (R. Garnett), LIB. J. 4, 111.

The Owens College.

J. TAYLOR KAY.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

President:

RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester.

Hon. Treasurer:

HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

Hon. Secretaries:

J. Y. W. MACALISTER,
53, Berners Street, W.

ERNEST C. THOMAS,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object is to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, with the view of promoting the establishment of new libraries and securing the best possible administration of those already existing. The Association also encourages bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, and Glasgow.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Entrance-fee is 10s. 6d. and the Annual Subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance. The Life subscription is £8 8s. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Entrance-fee and Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants are admitted *without Entrance-fee.*

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twelfth (1889) Annual Meeting will be held at London, in the Library of Gray's Inn (by the kind permission of the Masters of the Bench), on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of October.

The proceedings will begin at 10 o'clock precisely, on the morning of Wednesday, October 2nd, when the chair will be taken by the President, Mr. Chancellor Christie.

Non-Members may become Associates by a payment of 5s., which will entitle them to take part in the proceedings. Applications for Associates' tickets, and all enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretaries to the Reception Committee, the Library, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.

EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

Candidates who are prepared and who wish to be examined upon the date announced, October 15th, are requested to communicate with the Hon. Secs., and arrangements will be made to meet their convenience; but so many have asked for a later date to be fixed, that it has been decided to hold an examination early in January next. The exact date will be announced immediately.

The Treasurer is making up his accounts for the year, and will be much obliged if members in arrear will at once remit their overdue subscriptions.

Editorial Communications and Books for review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Printed for the Publisher, by J. DAVY & SONS, at the DRYDEN PRESS, 137, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The Library.

The Work and Aims of the Library Association.

Address by the President, Mr. CHANCELLOR CHRISTIE (Delivered at the Annual Meeting, October 2nd, 1889).

IN filling the office of President of the Library Association of the United Kingdom and in delivering the Presidential Address to its members, I can neither be unmindful of the distinguished men by whom the office has been previously held, nor of the able and valuable addresses which have been delivered from this presidential chair. I cannot pretend to speak with the weight of authority and experience which rendered every word uttered by Mr. Winter Jones, Dr. Bond, and Mr. Bradshaw on the subject of libraries so well worthy of attention, and which has made their addresses permanently valuable contributions to the subject of library organization and administration, nor yet with that delightful admixture of learning, experience and humour which characterised the opening address at Glasgow of our last President, Professor Dickson. I am not entitled, nor indeed have I the necessary qualification or experience, to speak with authority on the great questions on which the most skilled and learned librarians differ, and all that I can hope to do is to call attention to some of the more salient points of interest in connection with libraries and librarians, and to make a few suggestions of a practical nature as to how the aims and objects of our Association may be best accomplished.

But before I speak on these subjects let me express the regret which I feel, and which I know will be shared by every member of the Association at the loss which we have sustained by the death of one of my predecessors in this chair—Sir James Allanson Picton—one of the earliest members of the Association, one who took the deepest interest in its proceedings and who presided over us with great ability at Liverpool, and contributed

largely to the success of that meeting. It was to the exertions of Sir James Picton that the establishment of a free public library in Liverpool was largely due, and up to his death at the age of eighty-four he continued to display the most lively interest not only in its welfare, but in that of every institution which he considered was promoting the cause of intellectual progress.

It is now twelve years since (in October, 1877) the Conference of Librarians—the parent of the Association—was held in the London Institution in Finsbury Circus under the Presidency of the then Principal Librarian of the British Museum, Mr. Winter Jones. The Conference resulted in the formation of this Association, which held its first meeting in Oxford in the following year. It was mainly owing to the efforts of Mr. E. W. B. Nicholson, the present Bodley's Librarian—whose absence from our meeting we all deeply regret—though with the cordial and valuable assistance of several gentlemen whom I rejoice to see here to-day, that the Conference was held and the Association formed.

But we must not forget that as well in the Conference as in the Association, Great Britain had been anticipated by America, and that to our cousins across the Atlantic the idea is due. As early as 1853 a conference of about eighty librarians and others interested in library work was held in New York. But though many matters of interest were discussed and a suggestion thrown out that an association should be formed, the matter slept for twenty-six years, and it was not until 1876 that a second conference was held at Philadelphia. It was in every respect a most successful meeting. An American Library Association was formed. The *Library Journal* was established, and the conference has been justly described as marking a new era in the history of bibliothecal science. Every one interested in libraries must feel that a deep debt of gratitude is due to our American kinsmen for being the first to attempt to place the organization of libraries on something like a scientific basis, and the names of Justin Winsor, Poole, Cutter, and Dewey will always be remembered as the pioneers of this important movement.

The conference in London was not less successful than that of Philadelphia. An admirable address was delivered by Mr. Winter Jones; papers of great merit were read and were followed by discussions of much interest. This Association was formed and a valuable paper of suggestions of leading subjects

connected with library formation and management was prepared by Mr. Nicholson as a guide for the future deliberations of the Association.

And now at this our twelfth Annual Meeting, let us enquire how the Association has fulfilled the promise of its commencement. What has been accomplished in the past twelve years? In what respects have the results of the Association come short of the anticipations of its commencement? What are the most pressing matters for it to aim at in the future, and in what respects can improvements in its *modus operandi* be suggested?

The objects of the Association were formally declared to be "to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work for promoting the best possible administration of existing libraries, and the formation of new ones where desirable, and the encouragement of bibliographical research."

Now it may be said generally that much has been done by the Association in both the directions indicated in this declaration of aims. But that in which the Association has achieved its greatest success, and which ought to make it especially dear to librarians, is only dimly indicated—if indicated at all—in this declaration of aims, though it was in the minds, and indeed on the lips, of the founders of the Association. It has raised the status of librarians throughout the country, and formed them into a profession. At the date of the formation of the Association no such profession existed. A few years earlier anybody was thought to be competent to be a librarian—no special education, no preparation was conceived to be necessary. Like schoolmasters up to a quarter of a century earlier, any person who had failed in any other walk of life, or who was what was called "fond of books," was supposed to be perfectly competent to be a librarian, except perhaps for the British Museum and for one or two of our great university libraries. The duties of a librarian were understood to be twofold only: first, to reach down and hand to a reader or borrower a book when required, to keep a list of books borrowed, and to replace them on the shelves when returned; and, secondly, when new books were acquired to enter them in the catalogue, and place them in a convenient position on the shelves. Perhaps I ought to add a third duty, occasionally to dust the books under his charge, but this duty, if it existed in theory, was generally neglected in practice. We must all remember specimens of the old type of librarian; he was not at all one of those who were ruined by reading. As a rule he neither read himself

nor wished others to read. That he should (or could) be of the slightest assistance to the readers beyond the performance of the formal duty of handing them the book they asked for was not even for a moment contemplated. Fortunately the free libraries which had sprung into existence since the passing of the Act of 1850, demanded and gave birth to a new race of librarians. Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and several other less important towns that were among the earliest to adopt the Act were fortunate enough to obtain born librarians, with a real genius for library work, to arrange and organize their free public libraries. But each of these was entirely isolated, and had out of his inner consciousness to work out for himself the problems of the organization and administration of a free public library.

Until the meeting of the Conference and the establishment of the Association this isolation continued, but the necessity of forming a union between librarians had occurred to those who promoted the Conference. All classes had banded themselves together—barristers, doctors, accountants, schoolmasters—and why not librarians? From the moment the Association was started a new profession was constituted. Librarians, no longer isolated, were formed into a body of men having common aims and common interests, and with all those mutual advantages which association and co-operation confer. Now, after twelve years, the profession is a recognised one; the number of free public libraries has greatly increased; the necessity for training, for special preparation and education is recognised; the duties of a librarian are more generally known, and it is felt by everyone that to take charge of an important public library requires not only a man of culture and education, but one who has the special knowledge and the special education which it is agreed is needed for every important educational work.

The anticipations in which the Council indulged in 1878, as appears by the Report of the first Annual Meeting, have been to a large extent fulfilled. Librarianship has made great advances towards exact and scientific proportions. The educational value of the profession has become, and is daily becoming more and more apparent. Librarians have attained, in public estimation, if not the high position demanded by the importance of their duties, yet a much superior *status* to that which they possessed in 1877; the value of library work has been recognized; a high professional standard and a fellow-feeling of mutual helpfulness have been created among librarians.

Further than this there can be little doubt that chiefly owing to this Association, sounder views have been generally gained as to what a library really is, the uses it is intended to serve, and how it is to be set going; and it is now recognized by all that a library adapted for public use is not a mere collection of books gathered together at haphazard, but as Mr. Poole described it in a paper read before the American Association, "a collection of books selected with intelligence, catalogued and arranged in an orderly manner and under wise and efficient management." There has also been a free interchange of experience and opinions not only among librarians (which however in itself would have had great value and effect), but what is even more important, between librarians and readers, for we must not forget that after all the reader is the person to be primarily and chiefly considered in the establishment and organization of a library. "The true university," as Carlyle remarked more than once, "is a collection of books," and how best to develop these collections as an educational force is undoubtedly one of the problems of the present day which this Association ought to attempt to solve. It must be remembered that one great aim of a free library should be not only to induce people to read, but to teach them *how* to read with at once the most profit and the most pleasure to themselves, and having regard to this view a librarian should be not only an officer taking charge of a collection of books, but one who has also two special duties for which he ought to be specially prepared. *First*, he has to make his selection of books according to the character of those for whom the library is formed; and this alone is by no means an easy task. Many libraries unfortunately are a mere heterogeneous collection of books, into which well-disposed persons have carted the rubbish of their own collections, under the impression that they were thereby conferring a public benefit. I have known a library in a country place to which the charitably-disposed neighbours sent volumes of old last-century sermons of no conceivable interest to any human being. A librarian or a library committee must venture to look the gift horse in the mouth, and ought ruthlessly to refuse the worthless rubbish which is frequently offered.¹ The needs and the objects of the readers must always be borne in mind, and it is most undesirable, for the mere purpose of swelling the number of volumes and so exaggerating the apparent importance of the library, to crowd the shelves

¹ Or quietly accept and *sell*, and with the proceeds buy something useful.—ED.

with books of no interest to the readers. Different classes of books are of course required in different classes of libraries, and the librarian of the free library in making his selection has not only to select books that the people want to read, but what is perhaps still more important, those that they ought to want to read, and towards which their reading should be directed; for the *second* important educational duty of a librarian is to advise the readers. In a library such as the British Museum, in learned libraries generally, and to a certain extent in all libraries, he has to advise the student where he may find the information that he needs: and no one, I imagine, can have used the British Museum (as I have myself done now for a period of nearly forty years) without having frequently had to consult its officers as to where there was a probability of finding information on special subjects, nor without admiration and gratitude for the great assistance which these officers have been at once able and willing to give. A librarian who does not know, at least in some rough and general manner, the general nature of the different classes of books in his library, is wanting in one of the most important qualifications of a librarian, and this is especially the case in free public libraries, where the readers, and particularly the younger readers, have only a very vague knowledge of what they do want to read, and where the assistance and guidance of an educated and intelligent librarian is of the greatest possible value.¹

Now on all these matters great progress has been made in the past dozen years, and a large part of this progress, I think it will be admitted, is due to the action of the Library Association, and the interest in the subject which the meetings and proceedings of the Association have kept up.

In one respect in which it was hoped that the Association might prove of great benefit it has been altogether unsuccessful—namely, in the promotion of a central institution with a bibliographical and bibliothecarial library, and models of every kind of library appliance, where all who are engaged in commencing or carrying on library work, or who are in any way interested therein, might receive the best information and the most com-

¹ I learn from the *American Library Journal* that notes are appended to the catalogues of the Boston Public Library, drawing attention to the best books on particular subjects, and pointing out their peculiar merits and qualities. This certainly seems worthy of imitation.

petent advice. But failure to accomplish this is not in any way the fault of the Association ; it has arisen entirely from the want of funds. I believe that such an institution would be of inestimable benefit, but it is impossible for the Association to take any steps in this direction unless and until much more ample funds than it has any immediate prospect of possessing are placed at its disposal.

Turning from the general to the particular, what has the Association accomplished in the way of solving the numerous and important questions relating to the establishment, organization, and administration of libraries, using these terms in their widest extent? Many of the papers read at the different meetings of the Association and the discussions which have followed have thrown great light and contain valuable suggestions on a variety of questions of interest, but only one subject has, I think, been treated in so full and exhaustive a manner that it may be said to be finally disposed of. The Association has settled an admirable body of cataloguing rules so far as relates to title entries, and no librarian can henceforth be considered as qualified for the duties of preparing a catalogue until he has fully possessed himself of these cataloguing rules as they are printed in the *Library Chronicle* for 1885. Whether every one of these is the most absolutely perfect may possibly be an open question, but they form on the whole an admirable body of rules—superior, as I think most persons will admit, to any other existing rules on this subject ; and there can be no doubt that if and so far as they are generally adopted, the utility of the libraries adopting them will be greatly increased, and the work as well of the cataloguer as of those who consult the catalogue will be greatly facilitated. There may indeed be many circumstances which may prevent these rules in their entirety being adopted in every library. An old-established and extensive library which has adopted a particular system of cataloguing—especially if that system has become well known—cannot be expected to change it, nor would it in all cases be expedient so to do. For the British Museum, for example, to change its system of cataloguing entries which has now been in existence for more than forty years it would be absurd to expect ; to do so would probably cause greater confusion than the trifling solecisms (if I may without disrespect to a catalogue which I so greatly admire, venture to use such a word) which at present exist. Moreover the rules which the catalogue of the British Museum

follows are well understood by most of those who use it, and indeed are to a large extent in accord with those of the Association. As far as these cataloguing rules go we may say that the Association has done its work and has done it thoroughly and well.

On many minor points valuable suggestions have been made in the reports of different committees. A report of much interest on size notation was presented to the Cambridge meeting in 1882, but certainly that report neither exhausted nor decided the questions submitted to it, and they were reserved for further consideration at Mr. Bradshaw's suggestion that "it was surely high time to make a serious effort to arrive at a common understanding as to a matter of such purely practical concern"; but nothing has since been done. The matter remains as it stood in 1882 without any further attempt to solve the problem.

And this, I hope you will forgive me for saying, seems to be the case with most of the important questions which the Association originally undertook to consider. The excellent system of appointing committees to report to the following annual meeting on matters of special importance, and then for these reports to be discussed at the meetings, seems to have fallen completely into disuse. It is now several years since a systematic examination of any subject was undertaken. The papers read—many of them excellent in themselves—have occasionally seemed somewhat desultory, and to have been selected rather by haphazard than by their bearing on library economy, and though I hope the Association is not in danger of becoming what I have heard it called by unfriendly critics—a Trades' Union of Free Librarians—yet the annual meetings, owing perhaps to the too great hospitality the Association has received, seem to have a tendency to become rather a species of pic-nic, with too many entertainments and too little real work, than as they ought to be, meetings where serious business affecting the welfare of one of the most important class of institutions in the country is systematically and seriously considered by those who are practically engaged in their administration.

One of the first and most important subjects brought before the Conference of 1877 was that of a general catalogue of English literature. A paper was read by the late Mr. Walford on the subject, and was followed by one by Mr. Ashton Cross on a Universal Index of Subjects. A long discussion ensued and a

committee was appointed to report on the matter. It need hardly be said that this was not the first time attention had been called to the question ; it had been frequently discussed, among others by the late Mr. Dilke in the *Athenæum* as far back as 1850. Its importance and interest were fully recognized. A report of the committee was made to the meeting at Oxford in 1878, a further report to the Manchester meeting in 1879, and a further very brief report to the meeting at Edinburgh in 1880, in which the committee asked leave to consider the matter through another year ; and a specimen of a proposed catalogue was promised. The report was adopted by the meeting, but nothing further has been heard on this important question. Although there was a difference of opinion among the members as to whether this was a work to be undertaken by the Association, yet all were agreed as to its great importance. The rules laid down in the first report of the committee seem to be extremely judicious. It was felt when the matter was discussed that the compilation of such a catalogue could only be successfully accomplished with the co-operation of the officers of the British Museum, and a nucleus or foundation of such a work has in fact been given by the Museum in the last few years. The admirable Catalogue of the early English books printed up to 1640 contained in the Museum must form the basis of any catalogue hereafter attempted, and I cannot but express my regret and disappointment that no effort has been made either by this Association or otherwise to supplement in any systematic manner this catalogue. If only the English books in the Bodleian and the Cambridge Public Library up to the same date, not contained in the Museum, were printed in the same form, an immense further step would be made, but with Mr. Bullen's excellent work as a basis there really ought to be no insuperable difficulties in the way of completing the catalogue up to 1640. To go into the details of this work would be out of place in this address, but one point I may mention because it seems to me to be of extreme importance, and its omission in so many bibliographical lists deprives them of more than half their value, namely, that in any universal catalogue of English literature that may be attempted it should be stated where a copy of each book is to be found if any is known, and if not, the authority for its existence. Several of the lists of obscure works of obscure writers appended to the articles in the *Dictionary of National Biography* are of great use and value, but

others are simply irritating and convey no information whatever of any value when, as is sometimes the case, no intimation is given either where copies of the books in question may be found, nor on what authority they are cited.

If I say nothing here on the importance of a universal catalogue of literature, it is because however excellent the conception and however desirable it is that the conception should take a practical form, this must, as far as we are concerned, be preceded by a universal catalogue of *English* literature. All that we can do in this direction is—what was suggested by Dr. Bond in his address to the Association in 1886—to press on foreign nations the duty of publishing catalogues of their national literature.

The *Transactions* of the Association and the *Chronicle and Library* contain much information as to buildings, arrangement of rooms, heating, lighting, shelving, and such matters, but there needs still to be very much done in this direction. The best form of building, the best arrangement of rooms, the best methods of heating and lighting—having regard not only to the convenience and comfort of readers and officials, but to the preservation of the books—ought, I think, to be considered in a systematic manner by the Association, so that those who are commencing a library, and especially a free public library, should be in possession not merely of theories, but of facts, which might enable them to make their plans and work their libraries on the best possible principles. No model plan, indeed, however perfect, would be adapted to the requirements of every, possibly of hardly any, library, but the principles and the points to be aimed at ought to be clear and well known, and it cannot be doubted that the experience of the able librarians of many of our larger free libraries would enable them to lay down rules and principles which, if made readily accessible, would be of the greatest advantage and assistance to those who are about to commence a free public library.

And this leads me to the subject of the classification and arrangement of books to which much attention was given by the Association in its earliest years, and if it has not been so successful in producing a reasonably perfect or satisfactory system as it has in the matter of title entries, this partly arises from the fact that a perfect and scientific system of classification is impossible, that all that can be hoped for is to settle the most convenient arrangement, and that this must differ in different

classes of libraries. Interesting and valuable papers have been read, discussions have followed, and *interim* or provisional reports have been made by the committee appointed, but since 1886 the matter, like the other questions I have referred to, has been shelved; yet I cannot but think, as was suggested by Mr. May in a paper read in this place in 1886, that a convenient scheme might be put forth by the Association so complete that the larger libraries might adopt it in its entirety, and the smaller libraries to such an extent as their local needs required. A uniform system of classification, even though far from scientifically perfect, would greatly facilitate the convenience both of librarians and readers.

The importance of library statistics has been fully recognised by the Association. There is not a volume of its *Transactions* or of its *Chronicle* which does not contain statistics of more or less value. There are few sayings more hackneyed but also few which are truer than that attributed to Canning, that "Nothing is so fallacious as facts except figures," and to no subject is this more applicable than to library statistics. An excellent preliminary report on this matter was presented to the Association at Edinburgh in 1880. It is there clearly pointed out that there can be little value attached to the comparative statistics of the extent and use of public libraries until there is a common principle of classification, and an agreement to use identical forms for the purpose of registration; but no attempt was then made to answer the question whether a common method can be adopted, and whether rules can be framed which will enable the same terms to express the same thing. At present each librarian compiles his statistics on his own principle. One includes under fiction, Young's *Night Thoughts*; another puts *The Pilgrim's Progress* under theology. How single works in many volumes are to be dealt with, how collected works in one large volume are to be treated, and innumerable other questions, such as those which relate to pamphlets, specifications of patents, current numbers of periodicals, must be decided, so that these matters may be treated in a uniform manner, before the statements as to the number of volumes issued, the number in each department of literature, and as to many other statistical questions can give the slightest real information, and before these statistics, interesting and valuable as they are, can aid us in answering the question which I believe we are all most anxious to see answered, whether there

is a tendency on the part of the readers in the free public libraries to read the higher classes of literature to a greater extent than was formerly the case, and whether the reading of the lightest class of fiction does or does not lead up to reading of a higher class.¹

Something certainly might be done by the Association in the direction of promoting a uniform system of statistics which would be of value and interest to us all, not only as librarians but as citizens interested in education and intellectual progress. A report of much interest and value on statistics of free libraries was presented to the Birmingham meeting in 1887 by a committee consisting of Messrs. Cowell, Sutton, and Madeley. But as, though printed, it was only distributed to the members present at that meeting and did not appear in the *Chronicle*, I fear it has not met with the attention it deserved; but I think with some revision (and possibly a reconsideration and a more adequate treatment of one or two points) it would form a useful guide to librarians in the preparation of their annual reports.

But it is not only in the matter of statistics, but in every department of library economy that uniformity of method ought to be aimed at, and I am not in possession of sufficient material to enable me to form, much less to express, any opinion to what extent or with what success this has been promoted by the Association. Certainly on several of the important subjects upon which I have already commented something has been done in this direction. While no two libraries can be identical, and while there must be every variety as to the class of books, the number of volumes, the persons for whom they are primarily intended and the persons who actually use them, so that a perfect uniformity can never be attained, still the greater uniformity of method there is in cataloguing, in classification, in the mode of issuing the books to the readers, and in numerous other matters of detail, the greater will be the convenience both to librarians and to readers, and the more rapidly will each find himself at home in a new library.

Upon the second important matter which was officially and formally declared to be one of the objects of the Association—the encouragement of bibliographical research—I have said nothing, and though it is a subject in which I am specially interested and

¹ An interesting paper on "What English people read," by W. M. Gattie, appeared in the September number of the *Fortnightly Review*.

in which I should be perhaps less incompetent to speak than on some others of the points to which I have adverted, I shall only say that it is not from forgetfulness or a want of appreciation of its importance that I say little about it. But my impression is that it, like so many other matters, has not been pursued by the Association in the systematic manner which would be desirable—nay, necessary—if any substantial results are to be obtained. Many bibliographical papers have been read before the Association, some of them of merit and interest, and in one department, that of local topography and its bibliography, the Association has certainly done good service by pressing upon provincial librarians the importance of forming collections of books bearing upon their own locality, and encouraging the compilation of catalogues of these collections. Several of the catalogues which have been issued by members of the Association have been really models of local bibliography, and in the papers read at the meetings in provincial towns much information about local books and printing has been brought together which it would be impossible to find elsewhere. Two subjects, each of them leading up to the great and all-important universal catalogue of literature, seem to me to be very well worth attention, and to one or other of them I would suggest that those members whose tastes lead them to bibliography, and who feel disposed to assist the work of the Association, should direct their attention. The first is to take some one author, and prepare a complete bibliography of his works, somewhat similar to the excellent bibliographies compiled by Mr. Anderson of the British Museum, and appended to each volume in the series of Great Writers, published by Mr. Walter Scott. The second is to prepare a catalogue *raisonnée* of the books upon a particular subject, indicating, of course in the briefest possible manner, the merits and defects of the different works or editions. It is extraordinary and certainly discreditable to us as a nation that of so few of our great writers we possess even approximately complete bibliographies or even lists of their several works and editions, yet this must be done in the case of every author before a complete catalogue of English literature can be compiled.

I have endeavoured in this address to call attention to a few among the many important matters which come within the scope of the Association. I am sensible that there is very little—perhaps nothing—new in my remarks, and possibly very little but what may be found either in the addresses of my prede-

cessors or in the papers heretofore read before the Association. I have not attempted to do more than suggest some possible improvements in the method of investigating a very few of these matters, nor have I said much that might be said if they were now under discussion. To urge a somewhat more systematic investigation and discussion than heretofore of really important departments of what the Germans call *bibliothekswissenschaft* has been the main purpose of my remarks. I cannot but think that if a systematic effort were made by the Council to consider what are the matters relating to libraries and librarians of the greatest importance and urgency, and if instead of the time of the meetings being taken up by desultory discussions and haphazard papers, two or three subjects were selected by the Council, and either submitted to committees to report upon to the next meeting, or some competent member requested to read a paper thereon, and one or two others selected to open the discussion, it would to some extent conduce to the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Association.

I trust the remarks I have made on those points on which I think some improvements in the Association's method of procedure might be made will not be thought to be out of place, or to be dictated by a desire of fault-finding. The Association has done much—more perhaps than could be reasonably expected of it in so short a time; but much still remains to be done before libraries or librarians are put on their proper footing. Much improvement is still needed before the machinery by which the work of a library is carried on can be considered perfect, still more improvement before libraries can take the place they ought to take among the great educational institutions of the country. It is towards this goal that the Association must strive, towards this all its efforts must be directed, not only with a view of promoting the cause of free public libraries and librarians, but so that the interests, the welfare, and the increased efficiency of our learned and national libraries may also be kept in view, and that all librarians may feel that they are members of a common profession with common interests and common aims. It is only in the hope of contributing, however feebly, towards this end that I have ventured to put my views before the Association, and to indicate one or two directions in which, as I think, these common interests and common aims may be advantageously pursued.

On Library Progress.

An Address delivered by Professor MELVIL DEWEY at the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Library Association.

WHEN I was quite unexpectedly asked to speak I said, "If you call me up on any topic, I shall doubtless think of something to say about library interests,"—for I am something like the Baptist clergyman who, whatever text he took, was sure to bring in the question of immersion. Finally some of his hearers, tired of his continued harping on that string, concocted this little plan to get one sermon in which he should find it impracticable to bring in the old question of immersion as the only true baptism. His good deacons said they wanted him to preach extempore from a text to be given him on entering the pulpit. He agreed. On the eventful day the parson walked up to the pulpit, and their spokesman said his text should be from Ezra i. v. 9, viz., "Nine-and-twenty knives." The clergyman adjusted his spectacles, solemnly read his text twice, and then began: "Brethren, I cannot understand what they wanted all those nine-and-twenty knives for unless it was to cut the ice for baptism in winter," and then he gave them so exhaustive and exhausting a discussion of immersion that all previous trials were quite forgotten in their new tribulation, which the circumstances demanded that they should patiently endure.

I suppose in asking me to speak on library progress you want to know what we are trying to do on the other side. Perhaps the best way of presenting my own view and that of many who are working heartily with us, is to outline something of our notion of what library work ought to be, for I find, in meeting librarians and those who think about libraries, widely different conceptions. You here are working out the same library problems on which we are working there, and it would be a great advantage if we did more in common, and if more and more we might stand on the shoulders of each others' experience. We have four types of libraries: one for amusement simply—a good function, one for which we have great respect, and yet it is not the library we are chiefly interested in, though we welcome

heartily to our meetings, as you doubtless do in England, the representatives of such libraries because of the inspiration they may catch from those who are working on a higher plane. Then there is the library which is only a reservoir, always getting in and never giving out. The function is important and worthy all respect, for the reservoir preserves for coming generations what is worth handing on, but this is not the work in which we are chiefly interested. Then comes the laboratory idea, the notion of the library as a workshop, a conception that is more modern as regards books, though in fact it is simply the older laboratory idea of science. If a man wishes to become a working chemist or physicist he does not try to do it by simply hearing lectures *about* his subject, but he must conduct his own experiments in the laboratory. No one becomes a practical musician by talking and reading about music; he must give years to practice. And so the conception has come that for the mastery of any subject, there must be what I will call laboratory work. If we glance rapidly over the whole field of human interest we find that the library is the main laboratory for the great mass of subjects: philosophy, ethics, logic, theology and comparative religion, statistics, political science, economics, commerce, law, education, all languages and literatures, all history—for all these subjects and many more the library is the laboratory, the literary and scientific workshop. The modern university method means chiefly doing this kind of work. Wherever man is pursuing higher studies successfully he must chiefly use this method. Here we get a higher conception of the library—that we should make it not only a storehouse, not only a place where we amuse and entertain, but essentially a workshop. But the highest type of work that is done by a library is still a grade higher when in addition to all these functions it becomes an active aggressive force, the centre of inspiration, or as Carlyle said—the real people's university. Those who are trying to do the best work recognize the library as the very centre of the modern intellectual movement.

I was very glad to hear what was said by your President about the work actually done by this Association. Some people are fond of that shallow criticism, "You suggested so and so ten years ago and it is not done yet, therefore the Association is a failure." I have no sympathy with such criticism. The work of these ten years ought to be eminently satisfactory when we consider what few will deny, that in these years more has been

done for library advancement than was ever done before in ten, twenty or even fifty years. And I believe the time has come when we can safely promise to do much more in the coming decade than in the past, for the agencies already started will enable us to do it. Bear with me if I again outline briefly my conception. In olden times it was thought that the Church could do all that was necessary for the well-being of the people, and I yield to none in my appreciation and reverence for the work of the Church ; but it was found that a great something was still needed. Then came the idea of free public education, popular education, universal education, so that now we have come to the common belief that every boy and every girl must have an elementary education. So true is this with us (and I daresay it is with you) that an enterprising bootblack is not satisfied with an education that would have made the reputation of a mediæval lord as a scholar. But now that the necessity for universal elementary education is almost universally accepted, the world is ready for the next necessary step, and the conception is spreading rapidly that something more than this elementary education is absolutely essential to the safety and well-being of the nation. To teach boys and girls to read is to give them a weapon as powerful for evil as for good, and we must make sure that the new power is rightly used. All experience shows that in our time it is not the ear but the eye that is the great gate to the soul ; that people get their aspirations and inspirations, their ideas and ideals from reading rather than from the pulpit and the rostrum, which are for most people being largely superseded by the printed page. I keenly appreciate the advantages of personal influence, but if you recall how very few listen to sermons and speeches compared with the innumerable company who are daily readers, you will hardly question my position. Why, many men who are present at public meetings (are there any here?) do not listen to the speakers because they can read all they are saying in half the time in the printed proceedings, and at their own convenience. Let me control a nation's reading, and I care not who makes its speeches. If we are to influence largely those ideas and ideals which come from reading it must be done by means of the free public library, for in no other way can it be done well and at a practicable cost. In view of the great influence of universal reading, the only possible safeguard is to not only teach to read, but after that to supply the people freely with the best reading.

We took our usual prizes again this week at the Paris Exposition for the admirable work we are doing in elementary education, and yet in spite of it there is a slowly growing illiteracy which causes in thoughtful minds the gravest fears. Our highest hope in the schools is to teach *all our people* to read intelligently—not merely to pronounce the words, but to appreciate the author's meaning. Further education is limited to those who can defer a little the day of becoming breadwinners. Our unwise practice has been to cease active efforts for education when the pupils pass the school threshold—just when they have barely acquired the simplest tools for getting an education. When of all times they stand most in need of guidance we withdraw our efforts, and then express surprise that so few go successfully on. The practical question is how to carry on their education after they leave school, and clearly the library is the natural centre for this work of teaching during the rest of life. If we can get them to read the best literature we shall influence their whole future; if not, the learning how to read is possibly worse than thrown away. In this there are difficulties. When a man has been deeply interested in any subject, he is ready and anxious to read on that subject, and then arises the difficult problem to pick out the book that will then and there and to him be most useful. Suppose a man is interested in one subject and has heard of one book, and comes to your library and looks at a vast catalogue, and finds on his subject not one book but a hundred; unless some skilful friend will point out which will best suit him, the last state of that man is worse than the first, for is he not just as likely by the laws of chance to get the worst book as the best, if he comes without training and without bibliographical help. With our conception it becomes necessary to plant a public library, with someone to advise readers and study their individual wants, within reach of every home as nearly as practicable.

Upon this question of library progress I do not propose to deal with statistics, which you can read for yourselves, though we have an inspiring record. You cannot travel any distance over our great railways without coming to some town with a library started and more or less endowed by some private citizen. Perhaps in this respect we have the honour of leading the world. But of that I will not speak.

Of the organized agencies at work you know and I will mention them but briefly. Of some of these things instanced as

progress you may say not very much has been yet accomplished. But I count that progress towards a voyage when one of the great ocean liners is being drawn out from its dock and swung round by the tug till her prow points straight out to sea and her great engines may apply their power. It is done with infinite slowness, but in a single week that vast ship is safely moored on the other side. Thus in our library work we are heading for the port we mean in due time to make, and we count it great progress when our deck is cleared and our machinery fairly at work. Our American Library Association was founded in 1876. At the close of our second meeting in New York in 1877, twenty-two of our members came over here, as you will remember, at the organization of this Association.

Meetings which have been very successful and have done much to create new interest have followed in Boston and Cambridge, Washington and Baltimore, Cincinnati (Ohio), Buffalo (N.Y.), Lake George (N.Y.), Milwaukee (Wis.), Thousand Islands (N.Y.), Catskill Mountains (N.Y.), and St. Louis. In the history of our Association one significant thing is what was termed this morning the "picnic" element. I cannot speak from experience as to what your development may be in that direction; it has taken a form with us not only enjoyable but exceedingly profitable. It began in our trip to London in 1877, when we learned how profitable a week's travel together could be made. Excursions from Boston to historic Plymouth, and from Cincinnati to the Mammoth Cave, were followed by our great trip after the Milwaukee meeting, when about one hundred of our members took special train and travelled together round a circle of 1,500 miles, not counting the 1,000 miles which most of us had come from home. There was one element in this trip which may be a suggestion to this Association. Our local secretary went to Alexander Mitchell, the President of the St. Paul Railroad, and said, "We wish to show these visiting librarians, who have come long distances to our meeting, the attractions of our part of the country, and we think the railroad should share in the hospitality by making us specially low rates. What terms will your railway grant for such an excursion?" Mr. Mitchell said, "We will certainly do something to show our appreciation of what libraries are doing. See the other lines, and learn what they will do." He then visited the rest and said, "Will you make the same terms as those made by the St. Paul line?" After getting their consent he went back and

said, "They have agreed to be as liberal as the St. Paul, and all now rests with you. What are your terms?" Mr. Mitchell replied, "We will give you a special train with special attendants and private baggage car without charge." I mention that as an item of library progress, for ten years ago there was not a spot in the world where it would have been possible to get one hundred librarians to travel 1,500 miles in the common interest in their work, nor a carrying corporation that would have thus recognized their claim to public gratitude for their educational work.

The next year we took to the water and made a steamboat voyage of some 2,000 miles, going from Lake Ontario through the Thousand Islands and the rapids of the St. Lawrence, visiting Montreal and Quebec; and then following the majestic river to the sea, we came round through the provinces, making almost daily landings, and returned to Boston, which we had left going west by rail, from the east by sea. This year, after our May meeting in St. Louis, we took steamer again and followed the course of the Mississippi down to New Orleans, and then in our private Pullman skirted along the Gulf and visited leading points of interest, getting home after travelling together some 4,500 miles. I speak of these excursions as of practical value apart from the picnic element. Travelling together for several days in this way we enjoy a period of absolute leisure that could be obtained by no other plan. At our meetings we often have three sessions in one day, and there is no time for outside business. When we visit each other, the one at home is constantly interrupted by his official duties. But on these post-conference excursions—there being no formal business to transact—a librarian from the north finds another from the west who is working out the same problem, and they discuss it fully. Valuable collaboration thus becomes possible, and special reports and catalogues and aids to readers are prepared by the co-operation of most competent hands. Therefore I have a good word to say for the "picnic."

The Association has developed several other lines. Our system of annual reports as to library buildings, legislation, catalogues, classification, aids to readers, and eight or ten subjects of similar general interest and value has now extended over a series of years, and is a marked success. From those reports you get a complete history of progress in those subjects, without the gaps and repetitions inevitable without such system.

We have also organised the "A.L.A. Publishing Section." There were certain things which needed to be printed, but which no publisher would undertake. We have now three or four works either in the hands of the printer or about to go to the printer after three or four years of work in preparation. You must bear in mind that the men who do this work are exceedingly busy with their official duties, and it takes longer than if we had a paid department and paid officials to attend to it. Therefore, while apparently working slowly they are really working rapidly when we consider that it is entirely a labour of love and without remuneration. We have organised this summer a new association which will interest you—the Association of State Librarians, of which I have the honour to be President. We had at our conference in St. Louis representatives from twenty-five States, and we are hopeful that this body will do for the State libraries what the general Association has done for general libraries. Those who have tried to complete and arrange our public documents know that there is great need of improvement. State libraries are the natural centre for a very important work, and we hope much from this Association, which, among many duties, will undertake to secure the necessary legislation to insure the highest efficiency of the State libraries throughout the country.

At this summer's meeting was also organised another special section—the College Library Association, embracing all libraries who wish to join from colleges, universities and secondary schools. The *Library Journal* you all know. It is worth mentioning that a journal which has so long involved serious pecuniary sacrifices to the publisher and a vast amount of labour without remuneration to the editors, has got to a point where we feel assured of its future, and that there is no further danger of its being discontinued. Its fourteen volumes represent an amount of labour appreciable only by one who has undertaken similar work. They might be made better, but I can conceive that they might have been a great deal worse. We are now trying to supplement the work of the *Library Journal*, which still barely meets expenses at five dollars a year, by a cheaper publication which we can send freely all over the country for one-fifth this price; and we now publish 4,000 copies of *Library Notes*—a little quarterly magazine of practical librarianship—of which a chief mission is to serve as an introduction to the *Library Journal* by proving that even the poorest library will find it economy to pay five dollars

a year and secure our official organ, for the maintenance of which we are all so deeply indebted to Mr. Bowker, who, though not actually a librarian, is one of our most active and efficient officers.

Then there was another agency started in 1876, which, like the Journal, has at last taken its place as a permanent institution. The Library Bureau in Boston undertakes to do for libraries all those things which the Association and the Journal cannot do, *e.g.*, the manufacture and supply and improvement of those tangible things which are outside the field of professional and literary men. In maintaining this work for twelve years there has been a loss of some 10,000 dollars, but when reorganised after its failure of a year ago, it was put on a basis which has enabled it at last to meet all its running expenses, including interest on the capital supplied last year by those who felt that the great usefulness of the Bureau demanded some sacrifices, if necessary, to maintain it. Thus its future is assured. It is an agency of the greatest practical value, and I hope you will support in London a similar Bureau, which will do for general library interests a work which cannot be done in any other way so well or so cheaply.

The most important thing we have done of recent years was the establishment of the Library School for the training of librarians. We thought that five or ten students would come in and give their time and necessary expenses for the purpose of studying how to become good librarians according to our modern standard. Our school opened with over fifty applications, and we seemed compelled to accept twenty instead of ten pupils. From the first it has been a great success; the work has been better than we expected; we have more candidates than we care to accept, and we have more calls for librarians, assistants and cataloguers than we are able to fill; they already get much better salaries than before, so that we are more than satisfied with the result. In the work of this school we are doing two things. One is to give a thorough technical training in cataloguing, classification, bibliography, arrangement of library buildings, book-binding and all the endless details of administration. We try to teach whatever will be most practically useful in a library, and we lay great stress upon this. But we care ten-fold more for the spirit that gets into our pupils than we do for their technical instruction. If we can create the right spirit, with hearts full of their vocation they will be sure to go on and

learn all these technical things. But if they acquired the technical knowledge alone, they might never get the spirit which is necessary for the highest kind of work. Zeal will beget knowledge, but knowledge may never beget enthusiasm. So that the practical good done is a great deal more in the fact that our graduates are going out with the feeling that no man or woman in the wide world has a higher field of usefulness than the librarian who lives up to his opportunities. Each one that we send out makes a centre for new work. Let me give you a single instance. At the very beginning of the school one of our pupils who was doing good work came to me and said, "Mr. Dewey, they want me to go to this little town in the west to help to start a library. Can I go?" I gave her leave of absence for a month. Before the month was expired she wished to stay two or three weeks longer so that she might go to a town a little farther west. I extended her leave of absence and she went and helped them. Then at Mansfield they heard how the library at Elyria had been improved, and of the enthusiasm of the little woman who had come from the Library School, and they asked her to come down to Mansfield and tell them what they could do. She hesitated. I said "Go: you are full of this subject and can speak to a room full as well as to one." And so she went down, presented the claims of this modern college for the people, and they said, "We must have a library; we ought to raise 5,000 dollars." But she said "Why not raise 50,000 dollars and do it better?" and shortly afterwards she wrote to me that the 50,000 dollars was raised and the good work going on. From there she was called to other towns. When I went to St. Louis in May she was of course there, for such librarians are sure to attend our meetings. I said to her, "I gave you leave of absence for a month, and you have been gone for two years." Then she told me the story of her work, and in that time she had started or helped to reorganize and improve fourteen libraries. One little woman with her heart full of the spirit we most prize in our pupils had done all that work. This illustration will help you to understand why I say the Library School is our most important work. We send out about ten people every year, each of whom is a centre of influence, and by and by we shall leaven the whole lump.

Not the least significant thing in our general organization is the recognition by the Government of the proper place of the library in our educational system. If the library is the

people's university, and if it is to do for the whole mass of citizens what the schools do for those who can attend them, certainly the Government which supports the schools ought to support the library. A year ago I was asked to present before the University Convocation of the State of New York—the only State with an organization ideally adapted to this work—the claim of the library to be recognised as a distinct factor in the university. It gave me great pleasure to talk with what vigour I could command on those lines, and to press upon them that it was their duty not simply to look after the higher education of people up to the age of twenty or twenty-five, but to foster the higher education of all New York, and that adults needed education as well as minors. I said, "You are spending money, time and energy upon education up to the point of leaving school, but you are doing absolutely nothing for the rest of life. Now if the library will do what we claim for it (and I tried to illustrate) it becomes a university, and if every inhabitant of the State, young or old, is free to go there, it will advance the higher culture of the whole State, and it is your duty to recognise this institution." The Convocation listened to what I urged and asked the Regents to secure from the Legislature the necessary laws, so that libraries doing work of the highest character might be recognised officially and have seats in the Convocation, and in every respect be officially recognised as one of the higher educational institutions of the State.

When I was here twelve years ago I received just before one of your meetings the proofs from New York, and was enabled to present to the L.A.U.K. in the theatre of the London Institution the title page of the *Library Journal*, which you so cordially made your official organ, with the word "American" already struck out. I have received since I left New York this paper which I now hold in my hand, embodying what in my belief marks the most important step we have yet taken in library matters. It is chap. 529 of the laws of the State of New York for 1889 recently signed by the Governor. In it the library is recognised as the real university for the people. If I were to attempt to point out how much this action by the greatest of the States is destined to accomplish I should exceed my time and your patience. I have only to repeat what I said at first. In America no man or woman has attained to the highest and best library work who has not, in his heart at least if not more publicly, recognised the library as the central institution of modern education.

LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Library Association.

HELD IN THE LIBRARY OF GRAY'S INN

On October 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1889.

FIRST DAY.

At ten o'clock the chair was taken by the President, the Worshipful Richard Copley Christie, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester.

The Hon. Secretaries announced that the following gentlemen, all of them being engaged in the administration of libraries, had joined the Association since the last monthly meeting:—

Bennett, W. H., 370, Oxford Street, W.
 Brown, T. Craig, Woodburn, Selkirk.
 Caddie, A., Librarian, Free Public Library, Paddington.
 Campbell, F. B. F., British Museum.
 Dixie, A. J., 13, Wilmington Square.
 Glenny, W. W., J.P., Barking.
 Harbottle, W. H., Wigan.
 Harris, S. V., Tate Library, South Lambeth.
 James, Miss M. S. R., Assistant Librarian, People's Palace, E.
 Johnson, Councillor J., Wigan.
 Kettle, Bernard, Sub-Librarian, Guildhall Library.
 Martin, Samuel, Free Public Library, Ravenscourt Park, Hammersmith.
 Maynard, Edwin, Librarian, Free Public Library, Twickenham.
 Roberts, John W., Librarian, Public Library, Handsworth, Staffordshire.
 Stott, David, 370, Oxford Street, W.
 Tempamy, T. W., 25, Bedford Row, W.C.
 Thompson, C. L., Senior Assistant, Guildhall Library.
 Vicars, Councillor J., St. Alban's Square, Bootle.
 Waddington, W., Wigan.
 Wilson, W. R., British Museum.
 Youatt, Victor, Assistant Librarian, Sunday School Union.

On the proposal of the Council the following gentlemen who had not been able to comply with the rule requiring one month's notice of proposal were elected Members of the Association.

Aspinall, W., Pemberton, near Wigan.
 Brassington, W. R., New Manor House, Moseley, Birmingham.
 Cassell and Company, Ludgate Hill.
 Clay, Charles Felix, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge.
 Easy, W., 7, Greville Street, Holborn.
 Holborn, R. M., 11, Highbury Crescent.
 Macdonald, John M., 3, Lombard Street, E.C.
 Pelham, Hon. and Rev. Canon, M.A., Rectory House, Lambeth, S.E.
 Sotheran, Henry, 36, Piccadilly, W.
 Stuart, Robert, Solicitor, Wigan.
 Topley, William, F.R.S., &c., Geological Survey Office, 28, Jermyn Street, S.W.
 Walmsley, Gilbert G., Liverpool.
 Zachnsdorf, J. W., 36, Catherine Street, Strand, W.C.

The President then delivered his Address. (See page 353.)

Mr. E. Maunde Thompson (Principal Librarian of the British Museum), said the pleasant duty had been imposed upon him of proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Chancellor Christie for his able and practical paper. It was not the time to discuss the different questions which had been raised, for no one would wish to treat them hastily, but

he would like to thank Mr. Christie for the kindly way in which he had spoken of the catalogues of the British Museum. No one was too old to learn, though some might be too young. He formally moved that a cordial vote of thanks be given to Mr. Chancellor Christie for the very excellent address he had delivered.

Mr. Lane Joynt (Dublin) said he thoroughly endorsed what had fallen from the last speaker, and could add very little. He had travelled 600 miles to be present, and he had been well rewarded by the address he had listened to, and in saying that it was the best and sincerest homage he could pay. It was an eminently useful address. The best parts of the address to his own mind were those which took a solid, English, hopeful, common-sense view of their position. He quite agreed that the Association had not done all it had proposed, but the President had forgotten to tell them what Association ever had. He knew of none such in history. Many things had been done which it was not expected or intended they should do; and he did not see why they should not do even better in the future. All over the country, and especially in Ireland, the Association had aroused a great sense of the want of public libraries, and in various large towns in Ireland public libraries had been instituted which were doing much good in their own districts.

The motion was carried by acclamation. The President briefly replied, and called upon the Hon. Secretaries to present the Reports of the Council, the Treasurer and Auditors.

Mr. H. R. Tedder (Librarian of the Athenæum Club, Treasurer) moved that the discussion of the Reports be adjourned till Friday morning. The Reports had not been very long in the hands of the members, and it was for many reasons desirable that the discussion should be adjourned.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Alderman G. J. Johnson and adopted.

The President then called upon Professor Melvil Dewey (State Librarian of New York), who addressed the meeting upon the subject of library progress, with special reference to the United States. (See page 367.)

The President said the address of Professor Dewey had raised matter for very interesting discussion, which he hoped would follow; but it would be more conducive to the convenience of the meeting that they should take Mr. Maunde Thompson's paper and discuss both together.

Mr. Maunde Thompson then read his paper entitled "Some Hints on the Future of Free Libraries."

The President having invited discussion,

Mr. Tedder said he would like to point out a fact which was very much to Mr. Dewey's credit. When Mr. Dewey called at the Athenæum a few weeks ago and learned that the date of the Association meeting had been postponed, he did not take a moment to consider the point, but said at once "Then I will do my best to postpone my departure," and he had stayed in England with his friend Mr. Biscoe on purpose to attend this meeting. Mr. Tedder had first made Mr. Dewey's acquaintance at the foundation of this Association twelve years ago, and he was sure everybody would agree with him that Mr. Dewey was twelve years younger and if possible twelve years more energetic than he was then. He supposed that even among American librarians, Mr. Dewey was probably the most energetic, and if an ideal librarian were to be imagined, they could not do better than turn to Mr. Dewey. What he was about to say next had really no right to be said in a discussion on the papers, but he would say it with regard to his position as treasurer. A great many of the members had not paid their subscriptions. He observed a conscious blush upon the faces of

many present, but they were the members who only owed *one* year : the members who owed two years did not blush at all.

Mr. May (Librarian, Free Public Library, Birkenhead), said Mr. Thompson's excellent address had formally recognized that the public libraries already did something in the collection of local literature. No library was "up to the mark" which did not possess a collection of works relating to its district. In the Birkenhead Library they had collected from the whole of the county, and were endeavouring to make the free library a depository for that class of books. They did not stop at printed matter. When they came across manuscripts that had no chance of publication they secured them. He only hoped that the valuable information and hints given by Mr. Thompson and the enthusiasm Mr. Dewey had created would permeate the whole of the provincial libraries, and that particularly the suggestions as to parish registers would be widely followed. That idea he should take home and try to persuade his own committee to adopt.

Mr. Herbert Jones (Librarian, Kensington Public Libraries), said he would like to object to the repeated use in the papers of the Association of the word "free" library. If anything should be sacred to a librarian it should be a title page and a title. The word "free" did not occur in the title of the Public Libraries Act at all, and it would be more conducive to the general understanding of the purpose of these libraries that the word "free" should be entirely abandoned. It certainly ought not to be made official use of by a Library Association. The proper title was "Public Libraries," and that only should be used. He thanked Mr. Maunde Thompson for what he, as chief of the national library, had done for the Association. There was no doubt that public libraries would in the future become chapels-of-ease, as it were, to that great cathedral of books. The limitation of the penny rate by which public libraries were supported rendered any chance of forming good topographical collections very small indeed ; but although they might be small individually they must in the end, if carried on systematically, form together a valuable collection.

Mr. T. W. Shore (Hartley Institution, Southampton), said the question of public libraries taking upon themselves the duty of preserving local manuscripts was a most important one. The noble old library of the Hartley Institution had for many years done its best to collect old manuscripts and old records throughout Hampshire. There had lately sprung into existence a Hampshire Record Society. If librarians became the means of founding a Record Society in every county, making the local library its depository, the Library Association would have set in motion a most important work for the country. The value of such local materials for history was illustrated by a presentation which was made to the Hartley Institution only a few days ago, of a copy of the Court Roll of a manor in Hampshire, and among the customs recorded was one exceedingly curious—so curious that it only existed in one other manor in England. Some years ago he read a paper at one of the ordinary meetings of the Association on the preservation of parish registers. It was suggested at a former meeting that one work the Association might usefully do would be to circulate information amongst the custodians of these documents as to the best way in which they could be preserved. He had seen perhaps a hundred parish registers, some of great interest, and many in admirable preservation, but he had seen them nearly always preserved in boxes and cupboards which for various reasons were not proper receptacles. The want of free passage of air through these cupboards was alluded to three years ago, and he was told they were going to circulate some information among the rural deans

as to the desirability of having perforated boxes. This was a matter in which the local clergy were extremely jealous, but the difficulty might be got over by the recommendations of this and other societies.

Mr. R. K. Dent (Librarian, Free Library, Aston), in referring to Mr. Thompson's remarks, said that the Historical Manuscripts Commission had revealed the existence of papers of great importance scattered all about the country, and it seemed to him that where there was a suitable local receptacle all these documents should be deposited there. He might refer to a case in which a certain old document, which was calendared in the Historical Manuscripts Commission Reports as in the muniment room of a corporation in the south of England, was applied for, and the answer was given that no doubt such a paper was there, but it was not thought possible, without much trouble, to find it. The collection of local pamphlets was of almost equal importance. Librarians when they met with these should forward them on to the towns to which they properly belonged. This Association might become the medium whereby such papers might be put into the proper channel for getting into the collection to which they naturally belong.

Mr. J. D. Mullins (Chief Librarian, Free Libraries, Birmingham) thought a resolution should be passed to tell the American people how glad the Association was to see Mr. Dewey and to hear of the progress in America he had reported to them. Mr. Dewey would carry back an equally cheering account of the progress here. The reference to the great increase in the number of libraries given in the Council's report, and to their improved efficiency which had resulted largely, if not wholly, from the work of the Library Association, was very encouraging.

Mr. C. Madeley (Librarian, The Museum, Warrington) reminded the members that Mr. Thompson's paper formed an addendum to a paper read at the last London meeting on the best method of preserving those old documents which they had to-day been exhorted to collect. He had tried the method and could recommend it. In remarking upon the failure to complete work undertaken by committees on behalf of the Association, he thought the members might take a leaf out of the American book with advantage. They had been too anxious that the work done in that way should be brought to a final result in a report that the whole of the members of the Association would agree to. That was a mistake. In discussing reports which involve principles of action, as, for example, classification, it was impossible that a final report could be agreed to, because these matters were always discussed from the point of view of "how will it suit me to adopt this?" Their reports, too, had invariably been anonymous. That was also a mistake. Mr. Cutter's rules were known to every one as "Cutter's Rules." Did anyone believe these valuable rules would be more widely used if they had been published as the Rules of the American Association. If the reports already presented were published simply as so much work done they would not be dropped as they had been when they had tried to lick them into a final shape.

Mr. Alderman W. H. Bailey (Salford) had never listened with greater joy to any speech on libraries than the speech delivered by Professor Dewey. He was sure those who thought dismally of the position of large towns in this country in respect to the spread of socialism might be assured that no dangerous socialism could exist in the towns of this country which had adopted the Free Libraries Acts. They had five libraries in Salford, and he had noticed that whenever they established free public libraries in the manufacturing districts of the north in about eight or ten years afterwards they had public baths established. Thus it was the mind endowed the body. If a man's mind were cared for,

he would then have some care for the tabernacle of the soul. He had great pleasure in congratulating the Professor on the number of libraries and the numerous lovers of books in the United States, but he would like to say something from the people of this country to the people of the United States about the little question of copyright. He hoped the moral influence of the Library Association in the United States would be exerted in disseminating sound doctrine upon that question.

Professor Dewey said they had in their Association two or three of the ablest exponents of international copyright, who had presented the case of the British authors as strongly as possible; and the Library School was a hotbed of sound doctrine in that respect.

Mr. Peter Cowell (Chief Librarian, Free Public Libraries, Liverpool) wished to assure Mr. Thompson that many of his recommendations, especially as to the collection of local documents, had been carried out in some of the larger libraries in this country. He could speak for Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham, and he believed their influence was not without effect on the smaller libraries in their neighbourhood. He hoped Mr. Dewey would carry with him the grateful acknowledgments of the library lovers of this country for the influence which the American libraries have had upon libraries on this side. Their enthusiasm had permeated many here.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright (Borough Librarian, Plymouth), said the failures alluded to in the President's address were largely due to the apathy of individual members in not supporting the Council as they ought by the contribution of good papers on practical subjects, and by doing all they could to assist *The Library*. He made this remark as one who felt his own backsliding in that respect, and hoped that one and all would resolve to do something for the Association and its organ.

The President said Mr. Dewey's enthusiastic address had made many of them feel very envious of the state of things in America, where they had not only special trains for librarians, who were taken over the country free of expense, but where the establishment of a library school and the recognition of the libraries as departments of the State Universities, the *Library Journal* and *Library Notes*, showed that we had still a great deal to do before arriving at the state of things which so happily existed in America. Nearly every one of the topics touched on by Mr. Maunde Thompson was of extreme importance, and were subjects upon which he would like to say more if time permitted. He would only say however that the suggestion about having copies made of parish registers was a most valuable one. Quite apart from the access to them being dependent upon the clergy, one did feel that in going to look at a parish register for any other purpose than getting 3s. 6d. worth, one was asking a favour. That ought not to be. They ought to be where they could be freely consulted. He earnestly hoped that every librarian present would use his influence to have Mr. Thompson's suggestion carried out.

The President then called upon Mr. William Blades, who read a paper "On Chained Libraries."

The President said there was unfortunately no time for discussing Mr. Blades' most interesting paper. There were some of the libraries in Lancashire which had a considerable number of chained books, of some of which he (the President), had given an account; the old Bolton Grammar School Library had still a great number of books chained.

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In the afternoon a visit was paid to Mercers' Hall, where the members had an opportunity of examining the ancient charters and early records of the Company. Later on Sir Reginald Hanson, the Master of the Company, entertained the members and their friends in Merchant

Tailors' Hall. In the evening the Chairman and Members of the reception Committee gave a *conversazione* in Stationers' Hall, which was largely attended and was thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. Eadweard Muybridge, of animal locomotion celebrity, had very generously volunteered his services for the evening, and his lecture, illustrated by a choice selection of lantern slides, was perhaps the most successful feature of the evening. Some excellent glee-singing and dancing, which was kept up till morning, were the other leading items in a most enjoyable programme.

SECOND DAY {Oct. 3rd}.

The Draft Library Bill Prize.

On taking the chair, the President said it would be within the recollection of those present that in the month of May last Mr. Mac Alister had announced in *The Library* that he proposed to offer a prize of £10 for the best draft of a Free Public Libraries Bill. The late Sir James Picton, Sir John Lubbock and himself (the President) were requested to undertake the task of reading and deciding on the merits of the drafts. Owing to the lamented death of Sir James Picton the duty had devolved on Sir John Lubbock and himself. Five draft Bills were sent in, and he might say he had been exceedingly struck with the great ability shown and the great knowledge both of the past history of the Acts of Parliament relating to public libraries and to the lines which legislation ought to follow. Of course the judges could only award one prize, and they both came to the conclusion, independently, that the draft Bill entitled "Experience and Foresight" was entitled to the prize. This, it now appeared, was the joint work of Mr. John J. Ogle, Librarian of the Public Library, Bootle, and Mr. H. W. Fovargue, also of Bootle, to whom he had the pleasure of awarding the prize. He might add that while Sir John Lubbock and himself were in accord in regard to the first prize they were equally in accord as to the draft which would have merited a second prize. He did not know who was the author, but it was the draft which was signed "Denholme," and he might be glad to know that to his draft had been allotted the second place. He now asked Mr. Ogle to come and receive Mr. Mac Alister's cheque, and afterwards to make a brief statement of the principal points in his draft Bill in order that it might form a text for discussion.

Mr. J. J. Ogle said the draft Bill of Mr. Fovargue and himself aimed at the following objects: (1st) the repeal of all existing free library laws and the re-enactment in a single Bill of their desirable features; (2) the legalization of things which were at present of doubtful legality; and (3) the addition of new features suggested by experience. In Section 3 the term "authority" was made to include a large number of local equivalent bodies. In Sections 4 and 5 provision was made for the amalgamation of districts whether they did or did not adjoin for the carrying out of the Act. Any "authority" might adopt the Act by a simple majority vote, but twenty ratepayers might demand a poll for confirmation or otherwise. A poll was not to be taken oftener than once in two years. Section 7 provides that a committee of from ten to twenty persons shall be appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act, half of the number to be members of the "authority." Section 8 defines the powers of the authority, the chief new features in this section being the limitation of borrowing powers to "a sum or sums of money not exceeding the capital sum represented by one-fourth part of the library rate capitalized at the rate of twenty years' purchase of such sums." This is to be repaid by not more than fifty annual instal-

ments. It was provided that a special inauguration rate not exceeding a penny in the pound for the purchase of books and objects might be levied, and an annual rate for the purposes of the Act as follows:—“(1) Where a library or museum only is established the rate of a penny in the pound; (2) where a library and museum alone or in addition to other objects not being all the objects authorized are established a rate of 1½d. in the pound; (3) where all the objects authorized by this Act are established a rate of twopence in the pound.” All museums and art galleries under this Act were to be free and the building exempted from local rates. Section 9 defined the powers and duties of the committee, the most important innovation being the power to demand free copies of Government and local official publications. The other provisions would legalize things at present of doubtful legality, and Sections 10 to 15 were in the main equivalents of the existing law.

The President wished it to be understood on behalf of Sir John Lubbock and himself that they did not necessarily agree with every proposal in the Prize Bill. In all the drafts there were matters they thought well worthy of attention.

Mr. John Quinton (Librarian, Norfolk and Norwich Library) asked if it would not be possible to have this Bill printed and distributed before discussing it.

The President thought that a very good suggestion indeed and regretted that it was impossible to carry it out.

Mr. Charles Welch (Librarian, Guildhall Library) thought it was not desirable that in the City of London the Commission of Sewers should be substituted for the Corporation, and if it was desired to promote the Bill he would strongly urge that they should revert to the original authority, namely, the Corporation of the City of London, which included the Commission of Sewers.

Mr. J. Potter Briscoe (Chief Librarian, Public Libraries, Nottingham) said the draft did not deal with the rating of buildings occupied as libraries and reading rooms. Free public libraries and reading rooms should be free of all local rates.

Mr. Mullins: Why not of imperial rates as well? He knew a library that paid neither one nor the other. It had appealed and appealed successfully.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright reminded members that they might have entire exemption from local rates by being registered under the Friendly Societies Acts. In Plymouth they had paid no rates for years.

Mr. J. Pink (Chief Librarian, Public Libraries, Cambridge) said in Cambridge all their libraries were exempt. It was considered that as the ratepayers paid for the libraries it would be idle to take money out of one pocket merely to put it into another.

Mr. Cecil Davis (Librarian, Public Library, Wandsworth) thought the number of Commissioners seemed large for small parishes, and that twenty was an awkward number to work with.

The President said Mr. Ogle's suggestion was from ten to twenty, according to circumstances.

Mr. Lane Joynt wished to move: “That the Council should have the Bill printed and furnished to the members with as much speed as possible.” He thought he spoke the common sense of all around him, and that they were entitled to have a copy of a Bill before discussing it as well as gentlemen in a more imperial assembly. Whilst expressing a general approval of the provisions he wished to point out that it would hand over the question of public libraries in Ireland to a most unconverted body, namely, those who managed the sanitary affairs of the boroughs, who certainly were not usually distinguished for intellectuality.

Mr. J. H. Quinn (Librarian, Public Library, Chelsea) seconded the motion.

Mr. Alderman Walton Smith (Manchester) thought they should know definitely whether it was necessary that a limit should be specified for the library rate at all. In Manchester there was a strong feeling that there ought to be no limit, but that it should be left in the hands of the local authority what amount should be spent. The Manchester City Council had adopted a resolution for the removal of the limit as far as Manchester was concerned. He believed there was no limit in Birmingham and in St. Helens. The library movement had now passed the stage of experiment, and he did not see why the revenue should be limited any more than for School Board purposes. There was no other department of a city or borough limited as the free library was. He thought the rating clause a weak point in the prize Bill, and hoped the Association would express an opinion upon this most important question.

Mr. Madeley said the question had arisen at Warrington as to what really were the powers conveyed by the Libraries Act of 1855 and what it authorized and enjoined the authority to do. The amending statutes did not say, and the only way of finding out the intention of Parliament was by referring to the Act of 1850, which had been repealed—rather an anomalous state of things. A clear statement of what the Bill intended to authorize the community to do should be put into the preamble. He hoped Mr. Ogle would add a preamble giving as wide and high-aiming a statement of the objects to be obtained as possible.

After considerable discussion Mr. Lane Joynt and Mr. Quinn agreed to amend their resolution as follows, and in this form it was put to the meeting and carried by a large majority:—"That the prize draft Bill be printed and circulated as a prize essay among the members of the Association and the Committees of Public Libraries throughout the kingdom."

Later on Mr. Mac Alister stated that in view of the dread expressed by some that the prize draft might be regarded as representing the views of the Association (a danger which might, he thought, be easily averted by the simple expedient of a title page) he had decided to bear the cost of printing the draft himself, and would send it to members with a request for criticisms and suggestions.

Mr. E. C. Thomas then read a paper "On the Free Library Movement in London."

Mr. Herbert Jones said Mr. Thomas's paper gave the number of districts in London which could adopt the Acts as thirty-nine, whereas in Mr. Greenwood's book the number of parishes in London was put at something like seventy. If the Acts could only be adopted in thirty-nine parishes instead of seventy it materially altered the position of London with regard to free public libraries. The Free Public Library Movement in London had only begun a few years ago. Difficulties cropped up in London which did not exist in the provinces. Mr. Thomas's statistics showed that a vast majority of ratepayers in London were opposed to the Acts.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright thought that a confusion had arisen between London and Greater London. The suburban districts, if counted, would give a total in excess of Mr. Thomas's figures. Mr. Greenwood had no doubt included these places in his statistics. If Mr. Thomas had given them information as to the suburbs, they would understand better what had been done in the neighbourhood of London.

The paper by Mr. A. W. Robertson (Librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library) on "Library Indicators, with special reference to the Duplex Indicator," was taken as read, at the request of the author, who was unexpectedly prevented from being present.

The next paper on the programme was by Mr. A. Lancaster (Librarian of the St. Helens Public Library) "On Free Libraries and Technical Education."

The President said the question of technical education was becoming one of the most important questions of the day, and he would be glad if Mr. Rawson would favour them with his views on the subject.

Mr. H. Rawson (Manchester) said he had listened with great pleasure to Mr. Lancaster's paper, and although a good deal of it did not appear to bear directly on the title, it was all interesting and useful. The main inference he drew from it was that the extension of technical education would increase the work of the librarian; it would increase the demand for a special class of works in their various libraries, and it would be their duty to see that they were supplied in a proper quantity and of the right quality. In Manchester they never had a meeting without having a demand of that kind, and it was always listened to without demur. It was impossible to spend the money of the ratepayers in a wiser fashion. It was desirable to establish relations of amity between free libraries and technical schools. They had tried to do that in Manchester. The able and indefatigable secretary of the technical school had communicated with the equally able officers of the free libraries, and between them they had drawn up a list of books which it would be well for the library to buy. In this way one helped the other, and a great stimulus was given to the work.

Mr. Alderman Bailey said this question was surrounded with difficulties, and it was hard to define what technical education really was. He came in daily contact with men who would have been far better engineers if they had received a technical education. There was not the least doubt about what it had done for continental manufacturers. The great industries of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and the iron and steel districts had been founded mostly by uneducated men. Although in the past, the very remarkable natural ability of these men had surmounted great difficulties without the aid of technical education, now that we had a greater knowledge of science, and of the laws of forces, and foreign competition was becoming severe, the coming engineers must be educated men, and it seemed to him the free libraries of this country might in this direction be utilised to a very great extent. In the large towns of the north of England and the manufacturing districts, parents were often at a loss how their sons were to get a living. If a man got his son into the engine-shed, the boy worked and considered himself lucky. He must earn something, and the want of any particular technical education was not felt until the lad became apprenticed. For that reason he thought that technical teaching would have to be given in night schools. To a large extent, technical education was the knowledge of the literature of a particular art or science. For instance, if he wanted to find the best man to invent a new and better steam-engine, he should look for a man who had a knowledge of all that engineers had done before him, had read all the best books on the steam engine, and through them was acquainted with every kind of engine in existence. This was the sort of literature which fitted a man to get into a workshop as the equal of the best. He knew one young man (in fact his own son) who had received a considerable amount of technical education before he went into the works at eighteen, and at eighteen, simply on account of his acquaintance with the literature of the subject, he was the best man in the works—far better than those double his age. If they placed free libraries all over the country at the disposal of those who were seeking technical education, the question would be practically solved. One of the most valuable aids to the technical student was a good catalogue such as Mr. Folkard's Wigan catalogue. That catalogue not only gave an account of specific works on such subjects as engines and boilers, but also of encyclopædia, magazine and newspaper articles, and general works where these things

were referred to. This subject was well worth the attention of librarians and of all those who were watching to promote the future of old England. He had no fear for the future of England if her young men were educated, and the first step towards this was to provide the means of studying the literature of the particular art or handicraft by which a young man was about to earn his bread.

Mr. T. W. Shore, as a member of the National Association for the Promotion of Technical Education and a secretary of one of its branches, hoped the Library Association would endeavour to co-operate with the National Association. The National Association would be glad to receive from the Library Association any of its publications with the view of seeing what was possible in co-operative action. Every public library might assist the technical schools in its neighbourhood. The Council of this Association should watch the course of events and be ready to co-operate either with the Council of the National Association or with other educational bodies for the promotion of desirable legislation. The place which the free public libraries of the country would in future occupy depended very much upon the solution of this and other great educational problems. One great object for which they should all contend was the appointment of a Minister of Education.

Mr. J. J. OGLE said that in some of the free libraries a good deal of technical education had been going on for a long time. In Bootle there were science and art classes and popular lectures in the winter, in which they had borne in mind the advancement of technical instruction. He thought that many of them might aid technical instruction in this manner by extending their present work. They might wake up some morning and find the Town Councils were asking the library committees to carry out the Technical Education Act. In Bootle they would only have to transfer the charges of the work they had been doing to the Technical Education rate the Council had power now to levy, and thus relieve their actual library work of a great incubus of debt.

Mr. Woolman (Watford) said that in Watford technical instruction had been given for the last three or four years.

Mr. John Elliot (Librarian, Public Library, Wolverhampton) said they had had nearly a thousand students in connection with their free library at Wolverhampton. They were composed for the most part of borrowers from the library. Instruction was given bearing on the chief trades of the town, such as electric lighting and mechanical engineering, in addition to about twenty science classes. Their grant amounted to £246. In each class-room a list of the books in the library relating to the special subject there taught was posted up, and of course the Library Committee took care to provide text-books which were out of the reach of ordinary students.

The President said the discussion had been most valuable, and had made it abundantly clear that the free libraries could contribute a great deal towards the technical education movement, and he was quite sure they would do so.

A paper, "An East End Free Library," by Mr. G. F. Hilcken (Librarian of the Bethnal Green Free Library) was read by Mr. E. C. Thomas and listened to with great interest, but did not provoke discussion.

FICTION IN LIBRARIES.

The next item on the programme was a discussion on the position of fiction in free libraries. The discussion was started by a paper on the subject by Mr. Thomas Mason, Librarian of the St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library.

Mr. B. Wood (Librarian, Public Free Library, Bradford) said there had been a very interesting article on the subject in the *Fortnightly* lately, in which the writer called particular attention to Bradford. He would like to clear Bradford from the author's rather unjust imputation. The writer of that article seemed to have taken their issue of fiction and general literature together as representing fiction only. He had figured out for himself the proper proportion of issues of fiction, and his estimate came near to Mr. Mason's—55 to 60 per cent. The average proportion of stock was about 37½ per cent. The Bradford stock showed nearly 49 per cent. of fiction. He counted the issues of three-volume novels as single books, and thought that the only fair way. They must not object to the reading of fiction. If they could get the working classes into the habit of reading at all they had gained an important point. It was surely better to read a healthy novel than the *Police News*.

Mr. Boyes questioned the discretion of the tone of apology adopted with regard to the use of the library as a place of amusement. He maintained that that was one of the most important functions of every free library, so much so that as one of the humble servants of a large committee he regretted the action taken by the Charities Commissioners in insisting upon free libraries becoming places of technical education. He admired the man who could take up Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* after a hard day's work, or study the *Future of the Aryan Race*. He admired and envied him because he could not do it himself. He did not believe there were many hard working men able to divert their attention as soon as one thing was done to something equally laborious. The library was a place of amusement and a place of recreation. Therefore the working librarian, whose clients came in and asked to be directed to a good novel, should be able to direct them not only to the great masters of fiction, but to the scores of good novels, the majority of which had a healthy and stimulating effect. He did not believe in the reading of novels simply as a literary ladder to be kicked away as soon as you had finished with it. On the contrary, it should be a thread running through every man's life. What was wanted was to stimulate the imagination, to get more contentment and rest out of the elements already existing. Fiction and poetry of the highest order did this. To bring a man out of dull and squalid surroundings and give him a place where he might obtain rest and refreshment was worthy of the highest praise, and the gentlemen who had the privilege of directing the rising generation in grand public libraries exercised a high and noble calling in directing them to the shelves of the finest writers of fiction.

Mr. Dent said that librarians were answerable to their public for the quality of the books they read. He believed that so long as free libraries contained clever and wholesome fiction, it would have a beneficial effect upon the people. From fiction readers got an idea of the life of a period it would be impossible to get elsewhere. Sometimes mere titles carry people away, and the earnest librarian is disappointed to find them looking through the catalogue for the book that has got the greatest "secret" or "mystery." He once had on a shelf near the counter *Noble's Appeal on behalf of Swedenborgianism*. It was a large blue book lettered on the back "Noble's Appeal," and he was compelled to remove it, for people would ask for it and get it, always bringing it back at once. Good fiction in many cases led readers to ask for more solid information on the same subject.

Mr. W. May said the fact of fiction making half the circulation appeared a small matter when it was considered that a novel was returned and re-issued probably three times during the time a more

solid book was kept. A 37 per cent. provision seemed to him a very fair amount indeed. He did not know that figures were to be relied upon in free library reports, because so much difference of opinion appeared to exist as to what constituted fiction. Librarians had a great deal to blame themselves for in this matter. A general tabulation of statistics with precise definitions would have to be carried out before there could be any general inquiry as to the comparative positions of various classes of literature. Many of the statements which had been made with regard to the circulation of fiction had been to a large extent exaggerated by its confusion with miscellaneous literature. If the circulation of fiction in a library was not more than 55 or 75 per cent. he thought they might leave it alone: that library was doing good work. Not only among the readers at a public library, but at any public gathering 75 per cent. would admit that their chief reading was fiction. A few years ago a great wave of commercial depression passed over the country. There was a great increase in the issues of nearly every public library in the country, owing no doubt to the enforced idleness in the land, and if that sad time had been alleviated by men reading such books as *All Sorts and Conditions of Men* or *Westward Ho!* there was a pathetic significance in that fact and good work was being done. There must be something wrong with the man who held it was wrong to issue fiction. If librarians would only see that their fiction was good they need not be afraid of their fiction issues creeping up to the high-water mark of 75 per cent.

Mr. J. J. Ogle said that someone had divided books into two classes—those which inspired and those which informed. The greater power lay in the first class, and to that good fiction belonged. It placed living men and women before us, and living men and women were more interesting than dead facts. Milton had said, "A good book is the precious lifeblood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." A good book was a book which inspired and reinforced us, a book which made us think. He maintained that the best fiction of the day was of that character.

Mr. Herbert Jones said that two facts had been clearly elicited by the discussion, first, that it was the general opinion of the meeting that the issuing of healthy fiction was for the public good; and that the public libraries were intended for recreation and amusement as well as for instruction. Statistics on this subject would be more instructive if the number of readers was given as well as the number of volumes issued.

Mr. G. L. Campbell (Wigan) said that not having had the experience of a provincial librarian he spoke at a disadvantage as he could discuss the question only in the abstract. It might be divided into two parts. Very few thought it wrong to admit fiction into public libraries, but a great many thought that fiction was not the only direction in which library reading should be encouraged. They did not wish to prevent the use but the abuse of fiction. Great public libraries such as the British Museum and the Bodleian were intended for study and research and not for recreation, but on the contrary provincial libraries, while not excluding study and research, were mainly intended for relaxation and recreation. He was quite aware of the arguments brought forward against fiction. He could not believe the only possible way of inducing the people to read and study in a library was through fiction. Every day the newspapers told us the working man was the sole depository of social and political intelligence, and yet we were told that they had not the brain to read any books heavier than novels. They were too often told that there were only two classes of literature—light, that was fiction, and heavy, that was everything else. Surely biographies, voyages and travels, and books of science, written in such a style that a

poor man could understand them, were not heavy, and he believed they did not sufficiently recognise that there were great numbers of the working classes who appreciated such works very highly. It was quite true that one of the parts of human nature which had to be developed was the faculty of imagination. Although he had not much experience of fiction among the classes who attended the provincial libraries, he had a little experience among the upper classes. He had always found that it was the people who had most imagination who sought to read fiction. He had found that men did seek relaxation and find it in works of fiction, but on the other hand they could not disguise the fact that there were numbers of men who did the least in the world who were the greatest readers of fiction, and he had also known instances of men whose lives had been employed in carrying out great undertakings who when they sought relaxation did not seek it in fiction. In speaking of fiction it should be remembered that whilst they had the rich stores of the great writers in their lending libraries at the present day, the press was pouring forth vast numbers of novels—mere trash, written to get a little money by persons who had little experience of life and less imagination. They were not obliged to come down to this level.

Mr. D. Watson (Hawick) said that persons who contributed to public libraries had a right to claim that their taste should be considered to a certain extent. Fiction now-a-days was employed as a means of teaching some of the highest things to a class of readers who would never think of reading a philosophical, psychological or theological book.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright said if they did not supply fiction the people would get it elsewhere, and probably they got better fiction from the public libraries than they would get elsewhere. All fiction was not by any means light literature. As a devourer of novels himself he had read many a heavy one. If they were to act as censors they must go into other branches of literature. There was fictional history as well as historical fiction. Historians of the present day said that all the history of the past was fiction. One had recently announced that it was impossible to write history but in the Record Office. If this was true all the history written before the opening of the Record Office must in future be classed as "Fiction." Why were they to be always uttering tirades against fiction, and drawing the lines at fictional theology and fictional ethics and history and all the other branches of literature, the selection of which required so much consideration? It seemed to him that they were wasting time which might be more practically employed than by talking about this which had become almost a bugbear.

Professor Dewey said he had been asked to say a word. Perhaps they were afraid of fiction in America. He thought their best workers in America felt that the amusement and recreation of the people was exceedingly important, but while they believed in sweetmeats they liked to have the roast meat first. They must distinguish between good and bad books. He was in entire sympathy with what had been said in favour of the novel, and was it not a waste of time to go over that old ground? The public librarian was the servant of the State, and he conceived that it was his duty to hand over what was asked for. He had observed in a discussion similar to that which they had been carrying on very much the same tone, and that many of the younger librarians, and some of the older ones, too, felt this quite a bugbear. Let them drop this question and direct themselves to wise discussion on the exercise of their choice, so as to supply more good novels and shut out the bad. He believed that the best literature was that which gave the best inspiration for higher living, and he believed that the highest work of the librarian was to contribute in the highest possible degree to make life better worth living for all people.

Mr. Lane Joynt said somebody had referred to an apology for fiction, but he found the whole meeting was in favour of it, in fact so much so, that he had thought he was in his own country where they were particularly attached to fiction. A lawyer was nothing without either a quotation or a precedent, and he would furnish one which made a deep impression on him in his early life, fifty years ago. Thierry, in his charming book *The Merovingian Era*, said that he had learned more English history from Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* and from the *Talisman* than from all the histories of the period.

Mr. Mac Alister said that as time was short he would confine himself to a quotation. Speaking of "the good librarian," a thoughtful writer had said, "He must be the guide, philosopher, and friend of all his readers, kindly and thoughtful for the youngster or mechanic who revels in *Jack Sheppard*, with pleasant tact dealing with the flighty young lady enamoured of questionable fiction, and gravely helpful to the philosopher and man of science. His taste is catholic, and he permits *Jack Sheppard* because he hopes that taste will rise to better things, and with righteous guile he will lead it upward."

Mr. Thomas Mason, in reply, congratulated the meeting on the unanimity of feeling with regard to the utility and value of fiction.

* * *

In the afternoon Mr. Maunde Thompson, the principal librarian, received the Association at the British Museum. A special exhibit of early-printed books and other curiosities dear to the bookish tribe had been prepared, and under the courteous guidance of Mr. Thompson and some of the officials, nearly three hours slipped delightfully away.

AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

In the evening the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained the members and their friends with true civic hospitality at the Mansion House. After the guests had assembled in the Egyptian Hall his lordship addressed those present, and in a brief but eloquent speech gave abundant evidence of his sympathy with the objects of the Association by the able manner in which he traced the history of the library movement—bearing with special emphasis on the condition of London as compared with provincial towns. It was clear that if the adoption of the Acts depended upon Lord Mayor Whitehead the reproach of London would soon be taken away.

Mr. Chancellor Christie, as President, replied, and thanked the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for their public recognition of the work of the Association, and for their most hospitable reception.

A generous programme followed, and for several hours libraries and catalogues were forgotten amid the varied delights afforded by the Coldstream Guards' Band, excellent singing, and the mazy dance. Edison's latest phonograph, with its absolutely startling reproduction of the human voice, was a source of endless amusement, and a permanent record of the occasion was impressed on one of the cylinders that may perchance find voice at the Annual Meeting of the L.A.U.K., A.D. 2889. The exhibitor persuaded a well-known member to "sing into it," and Prof. Ferguson, Mr. Railton and others to "attest" the song and the occasion. In lusty tones presently the phonograph gave back "Ta Fairshon swòre a feud," and the attestations perfectly, and the operator removed the cylinder to transmit it to Mr. Edison.

The present Lord Mayor has done several things that will cause his Mayoralty to be remembered, but to those interested in the library movement he will be always remembered as the first to recognize and entertain with generous hospitality the Library Association.

THIRD DAY (Oct. 4th).

The first portion of the sitting (from 9.30 to 11) was devoted to business.

The President opened the proceedings by formally moving the adoption of the Reports of the Council, the Treasurer and the Auditors which had been placed in the hands of the members on the first day.

Mr. Lane Joynt seconded the motion, but thought it would be better to go through the heads of the paragraphs, and if no objections were raised to take them as carried, and the others could be dealt with as they went along.

The President said that the only paragraph likely to provoke discussion would be that containing the proposal to increase the subscription. There was an intermediate paragraph on "Publications"—had any member any question to ask about that?

Mr. Lane Joynt thought they ought not to pass over that paragraph without telling Mr. Mac Alister how thankful they were to him for the arrangements he had made for the publication of *The Library*, and his able management of it for the last nine months. He was sure every member fully appreciated the advantages it had conferred.

The President said he was greatly pleased Mr. Lane Joynt had referred to this, and he was sure it would be gratifying to Mr. Mac Alister to hear this expression of approval.

Mr. J. Pink suggested that in some future number of *The Library* there should be printed a complete list of all the free libraries. The only list he knew of was in the Municipal Guide published by Waterlow, and it was far from being complete.

Mr. Mac Alister reminded Mr. Pink that there was a complete list in the Association Handbook, which had been prepared by his colleague, Mr. Thomas, and had been circulated at the Glasgow meeting.

The Rev. Mr. Macray (Bodleian Library), thought they ought not to pass on without thanking Mr. Thomas very heartily for his long-continued labours on behalf of the Association. He therefore wished, as an independent member, to make that paragraph of the report which expressed the opinion of the Council heartily an expression of those present.

The President said he was very glad indeed that suggestion had been made. They were all indebted to Mr. Thomas not only for the *Library Chronicle*, but for the services he had rendered to the Association during the last twelve years. They now came to the proposal to increase the subscription to 15s. He might add that if the subscription were raised the first duty of the Council would be to discharge the debts of the Association.

Mr. Frank Pacy (Librarian, Free Library, Richmond) said that he for one was glad that the Council had had the courage to ask for an increased subscription at last. Some of them were rather surprised in view of the fact of seventy-four members having voted for a guinea subscription that the Council had not proposed that sum instead of 15s. It was evidently a compromise, and a compromise should be the *dernier ressort*. It was evident that the present subscription of 10s. 6d. would not do. If their expenditure were reduced the work must be crippled. There was nothing more injurious than a vacillating policy in the matter of subscriptions. Could anyone present name any other society which took so little and gave so much? The privileges were well worth a

guinea, and they had better make up their minds to give it graciously. He would therefore move as an amendment, "That the subscription be raised to one guinea."

Mr. Watson seconded the amendment. He did so in the full belief that the members would get additional privileges, and that their guinea would be a good investment.

Mr. William Lyall (Librarian, Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle), said it could not be expected that the work of such a society could continue to be carried on with such scanty means at the disposal of its Council. He had therefore pleasure in supporting the amendment.

Mr. Pink said he represented one of the poorer free libraries, and he was afraid a guinea would keep out a large number of the poorer librarians who belonged to the Association at the present time. When a circular was issued by the Council in September last proposing to raise the subscription to a guinea a meeting was called in Cambridge to discuss the question, and eight or nine of those present came to the conclusion that if the subscription were raised to a guinea it would be disastrous to the Association. If there was a debt to be made good, why not meet it by a special call to which many members would willingly contribute; and if it was still desirable to raise the subscription it might be raised to 12s. 6d. They had evidence that within the last nine months they had added fifty members to the Association, and he hoped that every librarian would soon belong to it. It was unreasonable to expect assistants who earned only £60 or £70 a year to contribute a guinea. He wished to move as a second amendment "That the subscription be raised to 12s. 6d."

The President thought it would be more convenient to dispose of Mr. Pacy's amendment first, and if that was not passed, Mr. Pink might move his.

Mr. Mac Alister said he thoroughly sympathised with Mr. Pink in his consideration for the younger and less well—rather he should say *worse*—paid members of the Association. The Council's original proposal of a guinea subscription was coupled with another—to create a class of associates paying half-a-guinea subscription, to which assistants and others approved by the Council might belong. It had also been suggested that associates should not be able to hold office, or to vote. If Mr. Pacy would include this suggestion in his amendment it might meet Mr. Pink's objection. In conversation with the younger members of the Association on this subject, he had been more than delighted to find how willing they had been to contribute their guinea to the Association. He took it that librarians of the right sort looked upon this society as the one thing they should assist. Speaking for himself, he had gladly joined the Association when his own salary amounted to not more than £80 a year, and he would have felt bound to do so even if the subscription had been a guinea.

Mr. Lane Joynt thought they had arrived at the pleasant point at which they seemed to be quite unanimous—that a member's subscription ought to be a guinea. He would suggest that Mr. Pacy should word his resolution to the effect:—

"That the subscription be a guinea, but library assistants approved by the

"Council shall only be required to pay a subscription of half-a-guinea. That

"the entrance fee be abolished, and that in future all subscriptions shall be

"due in advance, on the 1st of January in each year."

He would be no party to any proposal which would keep the younger members of the Association from the enjoyment of all its benefits. They would have manhood suffrage as long as he could give it. The fact that they were all unanimous to-day was the highest compliment that could be paid to the younger members. It would never do to tell a

member, "You may have an opinion, but you cannot vote." He was quite sure their republican friend Mr. Melvil Dewey could not stand that.

Mr. Pacy, and his seconder, Mr. Watson, agreed to modify their amendment, as suggested by Mr. Lane Joynt.

The Rev Mr. Macray said they could scarcely be called unanimous in the face of Mr. Pink's amendment. As one of the poorer members he believed, with Mr. Pink, a guinea subscription would injure them. Would not people begin to think "Do I get my guinea's-worth?" Non-voting Associates would make an invidious distinction. If the subscription were raised let everybody pay the same.

Mr. Tedder said there was no doubt that slowly and gradually they were getting out of their difficulties, but it was very slowly and would be a tedious process. During that time they would have to pinch and cramp in every direction, and extended usefulness was out of the question. Some one had said that no other society in England gave so much for half-a-guinea. That was an absolute fact. Mr. Macray spoke strongly about the disadvantage of excluding library assistants, and from what he said one would expect that half of their members were library assistants. As a matter of fact they had not twenty library assistants at 10s. 6d., and he was sure none of these would run away if the subscription were increased. One speaker had urged the advantages which railway companies received from lowering their fares. If that argument were carried to its bitter end, and they reduced the subscription to 5s., would they double their numbers? There was no analogy, for the Association could only appeal to a few hundreds at most. Another had said, "You will not know what to do with the money." He would suggest as a very simple plan to begin with—the payment of their debts. He was glad to hear that suggestion applauded. He believed the subscription would have been raised long ago but that members said, "We do not object to hand out another half-guinea, but what shall we get for it?" Now the Council could promise them, in the first place, to pay their debts; in the second place they would secure the continuance of the *Library*, which had been coming out with great regularity from its commencement; and, thirdly, instead of having to beg for a shelter in which to hold their meetings, they would have rooms of their own and a place in which their country members could be received when they came to town.

Professor Dewey said he had no right to speak, but he had had experience in very similar cases. They found that a distinction between members touched a certain sort of pride, and that non-voting members were unwilling to come in. And with regard to the payment of the subscription, it seemed to him that the libraries ought to pay the subscriptions of their officials. America was still behind this country in a great many things, but he thought in the matter of salaries they were slowly getting ahead. Committees were quite willing to pay expenses such as this when they saw that they got adequate results.

The President then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried by a large majority.

Mr. Tedder pointed out that as a natural result of this they ought also to raise the life subscription. He therefore moved: "That the commutation of the annual subscription be raised to £15 15s."

This motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Tedder then moved the formal adoption of the Report, as amended, and Balance Sheet.

This was seconded by Mr. Scarse and carried unanimously.

The President then called upon Mr. Mac Alister to move the resolutions of which he had given notice.

Mr. Mac Alister said he wished very sincerely that some one, other than himself, could have been found to move these resolutions. He must leave it to the eloquence of the facts he wished to deal with to plead his cause for him. He had listened to the President's address as he had listened to many others, with very great pleasure, but for the first time he felt entirely satisfied with the presidential address. They had hitherto listened to compliments and pleasant things; but this was the first time they had been reminded of neglected opportunities and unrealised aims. It was because he felt very strongly the justice of the President's criticism that he would ask them to carry the resolutions he was about to propose. In many respects the Association had done little or no finished work for three or four years. They received a certain amount of credit for helping on the library movement. But except indirectly by spreading a general interest in libraries they did not deserve any credit at all. In their constitution there was no reference to it; and the Council had no right to do anything when they were asked to help an agitation in any district in which the movement had commenced. He had again and again, as a secretary, received letters from people asking the Association to help, by means of literature or otherwise, those who were striving to get the Acts adopted. Of course the Council, under its present constitution, could do nothing of the kind. Individual members of the Council and of the Association had done yeoman service all over the country in helping the library movement, but their efforts had not the backing they would have had if they went out as the delegates of a strong Association. Then, again, surely it was the duty of this Association to endeavour to secure better legislation for their libraries. Acts had been passed, in the formation of which they had not had any word either of comment or objection. Now, for an Association calling itself "The Library Association of the United Kingdom," he did not hesitate to say this was a grave reflection and a thing they ought to try to remedy. He therefore proposed that Rule 2 (which set forth the objects of the Association) should be altered to read as follows:—

"Its objects shall be (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for free libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research."

Mr. Shore thought this resolution would be an important step towards effecting what should be one of the chief objects of the Association. He thought they had as an Association missed many opportunities within the last ten years in not having had their say in various legislative changes affecting libraries, and he thought they ought now to take their part not merely in the movement affecting libraries both as to new Acts of Parliament and the establishment of libraries, but they ought to take their proper position in the educational movement in this country. He represented a branch of the educational work, and he hoped the Council when they got their hands strengthened by the increased subscription and by a resolution of this kind would put themselves in communication with all other educational bodies with which they could take common action. He seconded the resolution with the greatest pleasure.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright said that he gladly supported the resolution: provincial librarians were frequently called upon to give information and help to those engaged in the promotion of new libraries because there was no central authority to whom they could apply. If this resolution were carried that difficulty would be removed.

Mr. Jos. Gilbert (Librarian, British Library) said that besides provid-

ing literature to help forward the library movement he thought it should be understood that members of the Council who had had experience and were able to do so should go down and help the library movement in the provinces when requested to do so.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and adopted by more than the necessary majority of two-thirds in its favour.

Mr. Mac Alister then moved that Rule 5 be altered to read as follows :

"Any person engaged in the administration of a library shall become a
 "subscribing member on payment of the subscription. Libraries and other
 "institutions may become members in like manner as if they were individuals, and shall be entitled yearly to nominate a delegate to attend the
 "meetings of the Association, who may vote and in every way act as an
 "ordinary member of the Association."

Mr. J. Blake Bailey (Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons) seconded the motion.

Mr. Welch said it was desirable that librarians, as librarians, should be induced to join the Association, and he did not think it would be a good thing if all their members were official delegates. He should like to see them in their own proper persons members of the Association, and should be sorry to see as the result of this rule committees delegating their librarians to represent them. The character of the Association would be materially affected by it. He thought a delegate should be a member of the committee.

Mr. Alderman Bailey did not see any danger at all in what the last speaker had suggested. No library committee would send a man as a delegate who was not a lover of books, and this delegate would probably end by becoming a permanent member ; so that they might look to have a gradual increase in their members through this very clause.

This resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Mac Alister said his third resolution proposed an alteration in Rule 6, which would have the effect of removing the limit placed on the number of non-librarian members. The original constitution said the main object of the Association should be to unite *all* persons engaged or interested in library work—and then straightway limited the members interested in library work to *two-fifths* of the whole. This was not only illogical but pernicious, and went some way towards justifying their being referred to by ill-informed newspapers as a "Librarians' Association," and a "Trades Union of Librarians." Nothing could be more disastrous to the objects they all had at heart than to have their motives thus misjudged, and moreover this rule tended to keep their numbers small ; for even if every librarian in the country joined them they would still be few in number. If this resolution were carried there would practically be no limit to their possible membership.

Mr. Tedder had much pleasure in seconding this resolution. As a matter of fact the old rule had never been strictly acted upon. It had no doubt been felt to be a bad rule and was conscientiously ignored. There was therefore all the more reason that it should be abolished.

This resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Mac Alister said he would only trouble them with one resolution more, but it was one to which he attached considerable importance. He moved :—

"That it be an instruction to the Council to draw up a plan for the preparation of a manual on the establishment and organisation of libraries,
 "and to send a copy of the plan by circular to each member with a request
 "for suggestions ; and that immediately thereafter steps be taken to
 "prepare and publish the manual as an official publication of the Association."

At the present time the only book on free libraries in print was that by

Mr. Greenwood. That book Mr. Greenwood certainly deserved credit for, as he had put a good deal of work into it; but unfortunately it contained a great many errors that the information at the disposal of this Association would have rendered impossible. He (Mr. Mac Alister) had long felt that if such a book were to be published at all it should emanate from the Association, and should be both accurate and authoritative.

Mr. Lane Joynt seconded this motion, which was put and carried unanimously.

Dr. Richard Garnett's paper on "Some Colophons of the early Printers," was then read.

Mr. Briscoe said that they would all look with some degree of impatience for the appearance of Dr. Garnett's paper in the *Library*. He would like to suggest that Dr. Garnett should add some examples of colophons when the paper came to be printed.

Mr. Blades wished that all the old colophons could be printed. They certainly must avoid taking them all as gospel. The old printers, just as the old scribes, got into a conventional way of following each other. For instance, if one man said that he was a first-rate printer and had types of silver, the next printer who printed that book would say just the same. He was greatly pleased to hear that they were going to have an exhibition of colophons, but he did not know where the glass cases to contain them could be put. The old King's Library without a single case in it was one of the grandest rooms in the world, but now it was perfectly hideous, and he often wished the cases could have been put in another place. In connection with such exhibitions he would like to point out a serious evil. The old books in the King's Library cases had been open for so long a time that one could not possibly shut them, and books worth from £1,000 to £2,000 were being in that way greatly damaged. It was a great pity that books should be injured year after year by being exposed, when for all practical purposes inexpensive photographic reproductions would serve equally well.

The President thanked Dr. Garnett for his learned and valuable paper. It was just such a paper as they always wished to have at the meetings of the Association. The subject was one which very much interested him, and to which he had given a little attention. He had himself about 100 colophons, whilst Dr. Garnett had about 30,000. He looked forward with the greatest possible interest to the catalogue of those early printed books, in which he hoped the colophons would be given, because, although what Mr. Blades said was perfectly true about one colophon being copied from another, still the colophons really did contain the most important facts relating to the history of printing and to the history of literature. With regard to any book which was printed before the year 1500, they were sure that if there was any information about the book that could be got in a minute or two it was to be got in the colophon. There were a great number of curious cryptograms in the early Hebrew books in which, he believed, there were a greater number of hidden sentences to be picked out than could be found in any others. He was sure that when the papers appeared in the *Library* there would be none of greater interest than that which they had just heard.

The next paper was by Mr. A. W. Hutton (Librarian of the Gladstone Library), on "A New size Notation."

Mr. Blades said that many of the members were more acquainted with modern books than he was, but he quite supported Mr. Hutton's view, that the terms of notation for all modern books were simply absurd. The paper was made literally in miles and cut up into inches, and the number of times it was folded had now nothing to do with the size of the book. Therefore he thought that any more natural method would

be better than that which called a book octavo when they all knew it was not octavo.

The President said it was a subject upon which some arrangement ought to be come to, although it was too late to discuss it in the manner in which it should be discussed. Certainly they could all agree with Mr. Hutton that the present system of notation, as used by publishers and booksellers, did not convey the smallest information as to the real sizes.

Mr. John Taylor (Librarian, Public Library, Bristol) read a paper on "The Monastic Scriptorium."

The President said that the paper was one of great interest, and one which they should all read with great pleasure. It was in fact rather for careful reading than for discussion.

Mr. Charles Welch (Librarian to the Corporation of London) read a paper on the "Bibliography of the Livery Companies of London."

Mr. Lane Joynt begged to thank the writer of the paper personally, for he himself was nothing if not municipal. He had served for twenty-seven years in two corporations, and he was pleased to see that they had just published in Dublin a collection of records of the last 700 years. He congratulated Mr. Welch upon the admirable manner in which he had brought together much valuable material.

The President said the paper formed a most important contribution to bibliography.

The time fixed for the close of the meeting having nearly arrived the two remaining papers—"Certain Modern Shakesperiana," by Mr. F. G. Fleay, and "The Extent of modern Shorthand Literature," by Mr. W. E. A. Axon—were taken as read.

The President called upon Mr. Mac Alister to read a letter which had been received from Mr. W. J. Palmer, Chairman of the Reading Free Library (on behalf of his Committee), inviting the Association to hold its Thirteenth Annual Meeting in Reading.

On the motion of Mr. Greenough (Librarian, Free Library, Reading), seconded by Mr. Briscoe, it was unanimously resolved "that the Thirteenth Annual Meeting (1890) of the Association be held at Reading, and that the best thanks of the Association be conveyed to Mr. W. J. Palmer and the Committee of the Reading Free Library for their cordial invitation."

The President then read the scrutineers' report of the ballot which had been taken for the election of officers as follows :—

President.

Edward Maunde Thompson, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Vice-Presidents.

F. T. Barrett, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

George Bullen, Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum.

J. T. Clark, Keeper of the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.

Peter Cowell, Librarian, Liverpool Free Public Libraries.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres.

R. Garnett, LL.D., Assistant-Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum.

Robert Harrison, Librarian, London Library.

William Lane Joynt, D.L., Dublin.

J. D. Mullins, Chief Librarian, Birmingham Free Libraries.

C. W. Sutton, Librarian, Manchester Free Public Libraries.

Sam. Timmins, Member of the Birmingham Free Libraries Committee.

Edmund Tonks, Member of the Birmingham Free Libraries Committee.

London Members of Council.

J. B. Bailey, Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons.

E. M. Borrajo, Sub-Librarian, Guildhall Library.

F. J. Burgoyne, Librarian, Lambeth Free Libraries.
 Cecil T. Davis, Librarian, Wandsworth Public Library.
 W. R. Douthwaite, Librarian, Gray's Inn.
 L. Inkster, Librarian, Battersea Public Libraries.
 Thomas Mason, St. Martin-in-the-Field's Public Library.
 J. H. Quinn, Chelsea Public Libraries.

Country Members of Council.

W. Archer, Librarian, National Library of Ireland.
 J. P. Briscoe, Librarian, Nottingham Free Libraries.
 W. R. Credland, Sub-Librarian, Manchester Reference Library.
 H. T. Folkard, Librarian, Wigan Free Library.
 W. J. Haggerston, Librarian, Newcastle-on-Tyne Free Library.
 T. G. Law, Librarian, Signet Library, Edinburgh.
 C. Madeley, Librarian, Warrington Museum.
 W. May, Librarian, Birkenhead Free Library.
 J. J. Ogle, Librarian, Bootle Free Library.
 C. E. Scarse, Librarian, Birmingham (Subscription) Library.
 Mr. Alderman Walton Smith, Chairman, Manchester Free Libraries.
 W. H. K. Wright, Borough Librarian, Plymouth.

Treasurer.

Henry R. Tedder, Librarian, Athenæum Club.

Hon. Secretaries.

J. Y. W. Mac Alister, Librarian, Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.
 Ernest C. Thomas (late Librarian, Oxford Union Society), Gray's Inn.

Auditors.

T. J. Agar, F.C.A. G. R. Humphery.

The President said they would now proceed to the agreeable duty of offering votes of thanks to the various persons and bodies by whom they had been entertained. The first vote of thanks he would propose was to the honourable Benchers and the honourable Society of Gray's Inn for their liberality, kindness and hospitality in entertaining them, and giving them the free use of their building on this, as they had on former occasions.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Lane Joynt, and carried by acclamation.

Votes of thanks were also accorded to the Lord and Lady Mayoress, to the Wardens and members of the Stationers' Company, the Mercers' Company and the Merchant Tailors' Company, to the Duke of Westminster and Mr. R. S. Holford for the various receptions and entertainments given to the members of the Association, and to the Chairman (Mr. E. Maunde Thompson) and the members of the Reception Committee for their able services in organising the arrangements for the meeting.

Mr. Tedder moved—

"That a cordial vote of thanks be presented to Mr. Robert Harrison for 'his valuable services as Treasurer from the foundation of the Association.' They were sorry to lose Mr. Harrison's services, for they might refer to him, without any disrespect, as the G.O.M. of the Association, and he hoped that he would long continue to attend all their meetings.

This motion was unanimously carried, and Mr. Harrison briefly replied.

Mr. Lane Joynt said there was still an agreeable duty to perform : to thank the President for his very excellent address and for giving them the assistance of his distinguished position, his learning and the other qualities which adorned him. He had great pleasure in saying that, and he would be incapable, though an Irishman, of complimenting him if he

did not deserve it. He congratulated him on the useful and admirable meeting it had been. He moved :—

“That the best thanks of the Library Association of the United Kingdom were due, and were hereby tendered, to Chancellor Christie for his conduct as President during the past year, and for his admirable address.”

He trusted Mr. Christie might long be spared to be present with them.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Wright, and carried by acclamation.

The President said he was exceedingly obliged for the kind manner in which they had received this vote, and particularly to his friends, Mr. Lane Joynt and Mr. Wright, who had proposed and seconded. Mr. Lane Joynt had said a great deal more of him than he deserved. All he could say was that from the time he became a member of the Association he had felt a great deal of interest in it, and endeavoured to give as much assistance as he was able. It would give him great pleasure in any capacity to continue to do so in the future.

On the motion of Mr. James Yates, seconded by Mr. Mac Alister, the following resolution was carried with great enthusiasm :—

“The members present at the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom desire to send a hearty, fraternal greeting to the American Library Association, and to express their pleasure that this meeting has been favoured by the presence of Professor Melvil Dewey, a distinguished member of both Associations.”

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The Twelfth Annual Meeting was brought to a close by a dinner at the Holborn Restaurant, given by the Reception Committee. In consequence of the serious illness of a member of his family, the Chairman, Mr. Maunde Thompson, was unable to be present, and the chair was taken by Mr. Chancellor Christie. A perfect dinner, good wines, good-humoured guests are such excellent materials for enjoyment that even speeches will not spoil it—but when the speeches are such as those made by the President, Mr. Melvil Dewey, and others on this occasion, they only serve to enhance the pleasure of the evening. The minstrel of the Association, Mr. W. H. K. Wright, discoursed sweet music to the accompaniment of Mr. E. R. N. Mathews ; and “Auld Lang Syne,” led off by Mr. Mac Alister, was a fitting conclusion to a most successful meeting.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

President:

E. MAUNDE THOMPSON, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Hon. Treasurer:

HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

Hon. Secretaries:

J. Y. W. MAC ALISTER,
53, Berners Street, W.

ERNEST C. THOMAS,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of Mr. J. Winter Jones, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for free libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham and Glasgow. The next Annual Meeting (1890) will be held in Reading by the invitation of the Chairman and Committee of the Free Public Library.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Annual Subscription is One Guinea, payable in advance, on the 1st January. The Life Subscription is Fifteen Guineas. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants, approved by the Council, are admitted on payment of a Subscription of Half-a-Guinea.

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

The next MONTHLY MEETING will be held in the Library of Gray's Inn on MONDAY, November 11th, at eight o'clock, when a testimonial will be presented to Mr. Robert Harrison, late Treasurer of the Association. The rest of the time will be devoted to the discussion of plans of work for the new year.

The Council will meet at seven the same evening.

EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

The next Examination will be held on January 29th, 1890. Syllabuses will be supplied to Candidates on application to either of the Hon. Secretaries.

The Treasurer will be much obliged if members in arrear will at once remit their overdue subscriptions.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

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The Library.

The Property of a Gentleman who has given up
Collecting.

OH blessed be the cart that takes
Away my books, my curse, my clog,
Blessed the auctioneer who makes
Their inefficient catalogue.

Blessed the purchasers who pay
However little—less were fit—
Blessed the rooms, the rainy day,
The knock-out and the end of it.

For I am weary of the sport
That seemed a while ago so sweet,
Of Elzevirs an inch too short,
And First Editions—incomplete.

Weary of crests and coats of arms,
“Attributed to Padeloup”
The sham Deromes have lost their charms,
The things Le Gascon did not do.

I never read the catalogues
Of rubbish that come thick as rooks,
But most I loathe the dreary dogs
That write in prose, or worse, on books.

Large Paper surely cannot hide
Their grammar, nor excuse their rhyme,
The anecdotes that they provide
Are older than the dawn of time.

Ye bores, of every shape and size,
Who make a tedium of delight.
Goodbye, the last of my goodbyes.
Goodnight, to all your clan goodnight!

ANDREW LANG.

Some Hints on the Future of Free Libraries.¹

NOW that the Free Libraries movement has taken a real hold upon the nation, and when those useful and, happily, much-used foundations are ever increasing and multiplying through the length and breadth of the land, like so many trees planted out by the kindly care of some large-minded man, who provides a grateful shade for those who come after—let me, who dwell under a great spreading forest tree and contemplate the growth of the younger plants around, raise up my voice and, with humility, prophesy.

I am not going to speak to you on such subjects as general library administration or other cognate questions, which you, as librarians, make it your duty to study and work out. It is rather as the head of a great museum, of which the library forms but a part, that I would address you, and attempt to indicate how far the experience which the British Museum has passed through may be turned to account by you in the development of the libraries which are entrusted to your care.

For upwards of a century the British Museum has been the great national receiving house of books, manuscripts, antiquities, prints and drawings, and objects of natural history. It has sometimes, I believe, been regarded by provincial jealousy as an omnivorous monster which nothing could satisfy—like some great submarine mollusc, showing but little signs of life, but drawing into its system everything that comes within the radius of its attraction, and giving nothing out. This of course is a very short-sighted and unworthy view. The Museum was founded in the dark ages of the eighteenth century, and has been a refuge for the creations of nature and of man when no other ark floated on the flood. Think of what has thus been saved that might have perished for ever! And behold! what is the result? I hope I may say a museum, not a mere storehouse—a museum which is doing its best to be useful as a place of education, and where joy is felt that other kindred institutions throughout the country are rapidly developing and will share its burden.

In one particular—the one in which you are specially interested—London itself has actually suffered from the existence

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, October, 1889.

in its centre of the great national library. Free libraries do not abound in the metropolis. It would seem that the necessity for them could not be easily realised by the Londoner, who could point triumphantly to Bloomsbury as the place where the largest library, practically free, is to be found. Happily this condition of self-satisfaction is giving place to better thoughts, and large libraries are being founded in various districts. Still, it is a reproach to us that even more is not done, and even that much expense which should be borne by the ratepayers is defrayed by the generosity of individuals. The crowded state of our Reading Room in the British Museum, where on an average upwards of six hundred readers daily pass the doors, cries for relief; and that relief can only be permanently obtained by the creation of local libraries. That those libraries may increase and multiply is the earnest prayer—perhaps a selfish one—of him who now addresses you.

But let us leave London and turn to the pleasanter air of your country towns, and in a purer atmosphere regard the great things of which you may all be capable. And thinking of these great things I had almost said: "Be above libraries." But for fear that you may cast me forth and stone me, I will amend this and say: "Be more than librarians." The selfish sluggard who used to exclaim, "Posterity has done naught for me, and I will do naught for posterity," and dozed through the live-long day, no longer exists—at least in a librarian's post. The flourishing state of this Association and the zeal which animates you is sufficient proof that this is so; and I believe that the free libraries established even in small country towns may be the centres around which will gather collections destined to be the pride of large cities, into which those same small towns may one day grow.

In our days, when education is becoming ever more general, each town should have its free library, its museum, and its art school. Many of our larger towns already have all these institutions. But in most places perhaps only the free library exists; and it is specially to the librarians of such places that I would speak and address them as the trustees for posterity.

At one of the early meetings of this Association the desirability, the necessity of each library collecting local literature was ably advocated and discussed; and it was shown that, at that time, much had already been done in this direction by certain librarians, while others had laid the foundations of more ambi-

tious schemes, such as the bringing together of works on particular branches of literature. These endeavours have no doubt been continued and have prospered, and many of you who are here present could surely tell us of the valuable stores of material for the literary history of your different towns and districts which have accumulated under your hands during the past decade. You do not require to be told how to make your libraries as perfect as possible in this respect; it is on a different, though not very different, line that I would lead you. I refer to the collection of MS. material of local interest. Every man feels more or less a natural interest in the place in which he lives and the family from which he springs; and I believe that with but little exertion and at small cost the librarian may collect and preserve for a grateful posterity records and deeds which might otherwise expire in the oven or suffer final dissolution in the glue-pot. The British Museum possesses some sixty thousand documents—charters and rolls, as they are technically called—the great bulk of which relate to the transfer of land in various parts of the country, dating from the early periods of our history down to more recent times. Now this centralization has been of immense benefit in the past by rescuing from loss and destruction this great mass of local records. But it is for you who live in our country towns to decide whether it is to continue. As long as such collections come into the market, the Museum is bound, as the national repository, to do its best to purchase and preserve them; and it will continue so to do. But for every deed that thus passes into our collections there are scores which must be rejected. There is a limit to our space, and the interest of many a deed is too small for its preservation in a national library. But would the interest of such a deed be too small for local history? I think not. It is from tiny facts and obscure names that local history and local topography are built up. In the sweepings of the lawyer's office there may exist priceless material for the future antiquary. I have long felt that in the collection and preservation of local records the time has come for each town and district to seek its own; and, where no recognized officer exists whose duty it should be to act, I conceive that no person is more likely to take an intelligent interest in this accumulation of MS. material than the local librarian. There were not a few occasions during the time that I was keeper of the department of MSS., when I thought it my duty to communicate with local authorities and give them

the priority in negotiating for purchase of documents which specially concerned their districts; and not infrequently I had the satisfaction of seeing the MSS. pass into local keeping. But sometimes there was lack of money, sometimes, alas! (but, let me hasten to add, not often) lack of interest, and then the great receiving house had to exercise its functions. When, then, you cast your eyes over the recent catalogues of the department of MSS. in the British Museum, and observe therein descriptions of documents, which you might think were better placed elsewhere, do not assume that the omnivorous monster has been again satisfying his remorseless appetite at other people's expense. Be charitable, and rather infer that the creature has been crammed, somewhat against his will.

And here I would say a word regarding one particular document which, above all others, is *par excellence* a local record—I mean the parish register. Even parish registers have sometimes gone astray and found a resting place—a place of exile truly, but yet a place of safety—within the museum walls. Much attention has lately been directed to the preservation of these important records, and schemes have been mooted for their deposit in the capital. With such schemes we need not concern ourselves, and may leave others to decide whether the country clergy are competent custodians or not. But certainly the parish register should be accessible to all as a *literary* document, and, next to publication, I can think of no better method of attaining this object than by depositing transcripts in your free libraries. Such a method may already have been followed in individual cases, but I would venture to commend its universal adoption, and I can hardly believe that your local committees or other governors of your libraries would grudge the small cost of making copies.

But it is not only such large game as the parish registers that I would ask you to keep in view. Despise not the smaller deer that can be marked down even in such forbidding haunts as the rag-and-bone shop and the marine store. By friendly negotiations with an East-end dealer in so-called useless rubbish I have in my time stayed the foreign travels of many goodly parchments, some being of singular historical value, which probably would never have returned to their native land, or, if they had, would have come back from German toy factories stretched on children's drums or converted into the mechanism of squeaking dolls. One of my happiest purchases secured in

this manner was an exceedingly interesting journal of an Englishman who resided in the far East in the early days of the seventeenth century—a MS. which was recovered from a long-shore second-hand furniture shop, and was bought for a modest sum, the amount of which, for fear of spoiling a market, nothing would induce me to divulge to you. You will perceive, then, that while I am advocating the collection and preservation by your enlightened zeal of your local records, I am also offering you the means of gratifying that engrossing passion—the pleasure of making literary bargains. And I could tell you too of triumphs—I mean triumphs in bargains—even in the fierce light of the auction room. But this might initiate those who ought not to know the mysteries reserved for you and me, and I will refrain.

Lest, however, my suggestions should alarm those who provide your funds, with whom parsimony is necessarily a virtue, and with whose parsimony I take it for granted you wage perpetual warfare, I would console them by reminding them that everywhere there are persons who, once they see a place established for the safe custody of antiquarian and other collections, will come forward and give. How has the British Museum been in great measure formed? Largely by donations and bequests. Collectors usually, and properly, regard their collections with an affection which is almost as touching as the love of a mother for her offspring, and the idea of the dispersion of their treasures fills them with an anxiety which leads them to bequeath them, as a joy for ever to posterity, to the care of such noble institutions as those whose functions I am urging you to extend.

I might enlarge upon what I have said to you, and even point out how the germs of a museum in its various branches may be planted in a quiet, unassuming way by an intelligent librarian who watches his opportunities. Once make a beginning, in however small a way, and I am confident that the results will exceed your expectations. Keeping only to the particular line which I have indicated, and confining your attention to the preservation of local records, you will find that other cognate collections will follow—topographical collections, literary correspondence of local men, and domestic papers of various kinds will naturally come in; and, in forming such a collection, remember that what may appear small and trivial now may be by no means small and trivial in the future. Because a paper or letter, for example, is modern, it is no reason why it should

be rejected—if preserved it will be ancient one day. Of course everything may be carried too far—a hobby may be ridden to death, and do no good in this life nor in generations to come. The follies of collectors are sometimes amazing. I have heard of a zealot who made rubbings of the circular iron plates which protect the openings to coal cellars in our pavements. But anything which has a true domestic interest has also a living interest. Let me give you one illustration in my own experience of the part which even trivial objects may play in the formation of a collection. Not long since there passed through my hands an unusually fine collection of papers, which had been stored in the archives of an old county family for centuries. Among them was a set of bailiffs' books, in which were pinned to the leaves numerous papers, such as receipts, orders, and various business memoranda. As these scraps were in most instances dated, I was able to form an interesting series of the pins which secured them, ranging over a couple of centuries, and commencing with a noble example, with embossed pewter head, of the reign of King Henry VIII. I know no other collection of the kind, and, though pins are but common objects, I doubt whether such a collection could have been brought together except by an accident such as I have just described. In passing through the galleries of a great museum one is conscious of a two-fold sentiment—the artistic sentiment and the domestic sentiment. Works of art are slow in coming, but collections of domestic interest—the never-failing interest of daily life—can be formed with comparatively slight trouble.

Now let us turn for a few moments to consider one or two points which more nearly concern you as librarians, again taking the Museum experience for comparison. You in the future will escape being encumbered by certain difficulties which beset the great library of Bloomsbury. You have been called into existence by the exigencies of the time. A free library springs ready-armed into action; it has no leisure to develop certain growths, interesting in their way but embarrassing in their nature. The Museum Library had a long period of serene youth and middle age, and it was only after it had attained great dimensions that it found itself called upon to discharge the functions of a great free library in the heart of this huge city. You, on the other hand, are able to control your growth, your accumulations can be regulated, and you can add at will a cubit unto your stature. For example, I

imagine that a well-governed free library will not be troubled with duplicates—it will be able to disperse them as they gather on the shelves and are no longer of practical use. With a national library the case is different—duplicates to some extent must exist, and must to some extent be held in reserve. But there is one law to which all nature is subject. The law of decay is as exacting in any local free library as in the national one—and this law is materially aided in its functions in your libraries, I doubt not, as well as in ours by those earnest thumbs, some of them rarely washed, which pound away remorseless as fate at the quickly-turning leaves, and wear them down to annihilation as surely as the dripping water eats through the living rock. A friend, who once delighted me with an exquisite melody drawn from his lightly-touched harp with the most delicate skill, replied to my thanks in these words: "I treat my harp as my friend; I treat it gently and thus it answers me. No need to grasp it by the throat and tear out its entrails." Oh, fellow librarians, how often have we seen our dearest children brought again to us, after a brief sojourn in unholy hands, with torn faces, broken backs, and ears that are only fit for dogs! But let these sad memories rest! Let us regard the wear and tear of a library as the natural out-wearing of the tools with which the workman plies his handicraft, and consider how these tools shall be replaced.

The problem is a difficult one to solve and must occasion serious anxiety in the breast of every one of us. In the natural course of things, as your libraries grow, the proportion of your books of the higher class will increase; and your anxieties for the future of your collections will in like manner become more extreme. How shall you provide in the future for a survivor of a book which you know will be worried into an early grave? Like the ancient Egyptian you must contrive a means whereby the dead man's shadowy double shall live in the world to come, even though his mummied body perish. Were we merely considering our libraries as things which, like the grass after brief glory, are to be cut down and cast into the oven, we might repeat the fool's words and care naught, for to-morrow we die. But the comforting maxim tells us that corporations never die, and I for one believe in the immortality of our free libraries, and in their progressive development from the primitive stage of being—if I may say so without offence—little more than a news-room.

to the matured condition of a great literary institution. You must, then, have thought for the morrow, and provide for the renewal of that wear and tear to which I have referred. It seems to me that the most practical, and certainly the most economical, way to do this is to make your provision early. I do not say that you are at first sight to assume that a certain book or books will certainly come to destruction at an early period of existence; but every librarian who watches his collections knows pretty well in what direction pressure will most surely come, and should be prepared. A second copy—I may call it a store copy—of any book which is having a hard time and is worthy of being preserved for posterity, should in my opinion be secured before the work passes out of print and can then only be bought at a high price. I am not speaking of bibliographical curiosities. If you do not possess, let us say, a perfect set of the rare editions of Bradshaw's *Railway Guide*, I do not think that you need care very much; and you may even live cheerfully without owning the editio princeps of *Goody Two Shoes*. But of all practical books, of all books which your own observation and your own common sense guide you to mark as books likely to survive—I would say, provide for their survival in good time. If you do not do so, old age will creep on, other claims will arise, and what might have been accomplished with ease at the moment will be impossible when to your staggering finances even the grasshopper may prove a burden.

But is a librarian only a keeper of books? There were halcyon days when he was—days fled for ever. I approach a delicate subject, and claim a moment to regard you as rulers of men. In your daily routine you pass in review, it may be scores, it may be hundreds, of your fellow creatures—all with like passions to your own, sometimes, alas! with worse. As your libraries advance in the upward course to which I have referred, so will your readers gradually change their character. Provide literary food, and the hungerer will come and eat. Milk for babes, and meat for strong men. But by degrees you may find yourself beset with the same difficulty which older institutions than yours experience. You will spread your tables and all will rush in indiscriminately to the feast. Wise people say: separate your tables, have certain rooms for certain classes of readers; let the ordinary reader go to one library and the accomplished library man enjoy his quiet research in another,

unjustled by the profane crowd. By all means, if such a thing be possible. But let me ask you, did you ever yet meet a reader whose quest was *not* important? Did you ever yet meet one of the "*genus irritabile*" who was *not* accomplished, and whose research did *not* require the peace and quiet which is to be reserved for his more distinguished brother? A free library must be free; but yet not with that freedom which some would assume—the freedom to make themselves as disagreeable as possible to everyone around them. Shall a great reading room be haunted by forms almost as dread as those with which the Roman poet peopled the shades of Hades? Shall that most exasperating of all shadows, Sleep, take up his abode there, and occupy the room of the vigilant? Shall the literary Fury, "*Discordia demens*," banish peace and put timid Learning to flight? Many of you doubtless have already met these forms and have manfully grappled with them, as stern but just despots, determined to hold your sceptres in a firm grip. As in all other phases of society, so in your reading rooms you will find the quiet many shrink before the noisy few—the decent and cleanly suffer the coarse-mannered and unwashed. What shall the librarian do? In such a company as this an answer is hardly needed. Without comment, I will read you a single paragraph from the rules of a certain library which has had experience—

"The privilege of admission is granted upon the following conditions:

"(a.) That it may be at any time suspended by the Principal Librarian.

"(b.) That it may be at any time withdrawn by the Trustees in their absolute discretion."

Need I say more?

E. MAUNDE THOMPSON.

On Chained Libraries.¹

THE custom of chaining books to shelves or lecterns is very ancient, and was due at first to the scarcity and great value of all literature. St. Bernard, the great monastery restorer who was born in the year 1090, makes mention of chained books in the first of his *Nine Sermons*. These, of course, were manuscripts, and were confined to monasteries.

St. Thomas à Villanova, who was born in 1480, in his *Concio prima in Festa Sancti Augustini*, also notices chained books. *The Pye*, or the rules by which ante-Reformation priests were instructed in the Order of Divine Service throughout the year, was a book often chained in the choir of cathedral churches.

Instances of the custom before the Reformation are however rare, although the Reformation itself was greatly indebted to a book chained in the Augustine Monastery at Wittenberg. We are told by Merle d'Aubigné that Luther was a persistent reader in that monastery of a chained Latin Bible, to which he was continually returning. It was there his revolt against the Church of Rome was born and nurtured.

When "the new learning" came in, the power and means of reading were greatly increased, and the Archbishops and Bishops of the Reformed Church issued many injunctions concerning the placing of Bibles and other books in parish churches; and although there is no mention of chains in any of these injunctions, the great prevalence at that time of chained books in churches proves what the general custom was.

The books most commonly found chained were—the Holy Bible, Fox's *Martyrs*, Jewel's *Defence*, and Erasmus's *Paraphrase*; but many others were also chained, mostly religious works, although occasionally profane works and even worse were so secured.

Sir Thomas Lyttleton in 1481 left in his will to the church of Hales Owen in Worcestershire, a catholicon, the *Constitutiones Provinciales*, and the *Gesta Romanorum*—a work about the most inappropriate for a religious atmosphere that could be mentioned.

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, October, 1889.

A Captain Sturmy, of Easton, full of parental pride in his offspring, gave a copy of his own work, *The Mariner's Magazine*, to be chained in his parish church. Prayer books were occasionally chained in the free seats of churches, as was done by the Duke of Chandos in Little Stanmore, Middlesex.

Chaining a book did not cost much. In the school house of Tavistock, in the year 1588, a "Dictionarrie" was secured by a chain which cost 9d. In the churchwarden's accounts at Ecclesfield, in the year 1589, are the following entries:—

"Item, Pd. to the Vicar when he laid down the English Paraphrase of Erasmus, ijs.—Item, chains for two books, xij d." At Wigtoft, Lincolnshire, chaining was much cheaper, as the payment for securing an Erasmus was only 4d.

Although single books, chained, were in olden times quite common, it was a very unusual thing to find whole collections chained; and when last spring I happened to see in a shop-window in Bournemouth, a photograph of the chained library at Wimborne, my spirit was moved within me, and I lost no time in visiting and re-visiting it. Indeed, those visits originated this paper, and I hope you will pardon me giving a special account of it. Wimborne Abbey itself is a magnificent building, and interesting in many other aspects than its architecture. Let us enter the Minster, and wend our way with reverential footsteps towards the sacristy, over which is the library. We cannot, as book-lovers, pass quite without notice the tomb of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, parents to the well-known promoter of all that was good in art and literature, the Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII., and patroness of our proto-typographer, William Caxton, whom she employed to print the *Fifteen Oes*. She it was who founded the adjacent seminary, now the endowed school, built a chantry, and conferred many other benefits on the town of Wimborne.

We just glance at the three old wooden benches which occupy the place of the altar rails; they are covered with a white eucharistic cloth, at which, before the Reformation, the laity received the Sacrament—a custom kept up to this day. The sacristy is a room of fifteenth century workmanship; it has two Gothic windows, and must have had an altar at the east end in by-gone times, for the piscina is there still. In one corner is a door which opens upon a spiral stone staircase, every step of which demands foresight on the part of the visitor, so worn and hollow are the stones with the feet of many generations.

At the top of this we reach the chamber over the sacristy, and find ourselves in the midst of many books, nearly all of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Formerly this chamber was the treasure-house where the sacramental plate and other valuables were preserved, among which were two pieces of the real cross, the thigh of St. Agatha, a portion of the crib used by our Saviour when an infant, some hairs from His head, a piece of the alabaster box of Mary Magdalene, a tooth of St. Philip, a bone of Melchisedec, a thorn from our Saviour's crown, and numerous other relics, of which, if the reader wants to learn more, let him refer to Hutchin's *History of Dorset*. The Rev. William Stone, a native of Wimborne and a minister of the church, gave numerous books to form a foundation for the parochial library. He appears first in the church records as an "official" (now called a surrogate), in the year 1637. He took the degrees of M.A. and LL.D., was principal of New Inn College, Oxon, and died in 1680 at Wimborne, where a long epitaph in Latin commemorates his acquirements and virtues. Another minister, the Rev. Thomas Ansty, who was appointed in 1661 and died in 1668, appears as the donor of eight books. The names of Taylour and Constantine, whose autographs appear in some of the books, are also in the list of "Ministers of Wimborne." The autograph of the Rev. Samuel Conant appears in several volumes, whose books formed probably part of the Stone collection.

Against the walls of this old treasure-house and around three of its sides are erected shelves, to which nearly all the books are chained. The chains are formed of rod-iron bent into a figure of 8, with one end twisted round the middle for strength. We know the date when the library was founded, and therefore of these rude chains—it was 1686. Each chain is about three feet long, and has at one end a ring like a curtain ring, which, running along an iron rod, allows considerable play. Thus you can take any book from its place to a desk at a little distance and there consult it, but you cannot take it away. There must have been some advantages in this plan, or it would not have been generally adopted, but, apparently, great disadvantages must have been experienced also. If the chains were a check upon stealing the books, they were certainly no preventive against damage and mutilation, as most of the volumes unfortunately prove. To lug out a heavy volume by the cover does not tend to preserve the binding. The present shelving

is modern (1856), the old boards having become too rotten for safety. The old desks, too, which afforded a resting-place for the volumes when consulted, have disappeared, so that for purposes of reference it would be very inconvenient to really use a single book without unchaining it. Several volumes have been unchained and are displayed in a glass case. The Church Committee in 1885 effected this change, abolishing a movable desk and chair to make room for the show case. This, I think, is a mistake: it modernizes its aspect and gives the chamber a cramped show-room look, very different from its old appearance. The exposed books, too, really answer no useful purpose: they teach nothing; people look and stare for a second, say "Dear me," and pass on without the gain of a single idea.

The books themselves form an exceedingly interesting and uncommon collection; they represent very fairly the literary taste and religious bias of the 17th century. There are about 240 works in number, many incomplete and many badly wanting the attention of a binder to preserve them; but with all their deficiencies they include several works very seldom seen, even at the best book-auctions, and with many of which, it may safely be said, bibliographers are little acquainted. The old fathers of the Church are well represented:—Ambrosius, Anselm, Aretius, Augustine, Bernard, Basil, Chrysostom, Clemens, Cyril, Cyprian, Gregory, Herodianus, Hillary, Ignatius, Isidorus, Macarius, Tertullian, Theophylactus and others. Classical writers make a poor show with only Cicero, Plato and Pliny, although a large portion of the whole collection is in Latin. In general and ecclesiastical history there are Bede, Camden, Daniell, De Serre, Dugdale, Eusebius, Grimstone, Raleigh, Ross, Trussell. Works on divinity and sermons are too numerous to mention, and include the chief Elizabethan and Caroline Divines. Lexicons are numerous, and the Eastern tongues well represented. Among the authors which are now seldom met with are Abraham, Aretius, Cario, Cassianus, Espencœus, Estius, Euthymius, Fabius, Facundus, Gorranus, Haymus, Heresbachius, Musculus, Optatus, Pintus, Sennertus, Spondanus, Trelcatius, Weinrichius and Zonaras.

In Bibles the collection, where one would expect riches, is poor. The Septuagint, a Hebrew Old Testament of 1635, the celebrated Polyglot of 1657, Junius and Tremellius 1617, and the Bishop's Bible of 1595, often called the "Breeches" Bible, exhaust the list.

There is one early manuscript only, but that has the advantage of a clear date (1343). It is on vellum, and was written for the use of priests; its title is *Regimen Animarum*, and it contains a few prettily illuminated initials.

We must not forget to notice that all the books, having the chains fixed to the fore-edge, are placed, back first, on the shelves, and are released by pulling the chain.

Several volumes have, or rather have had, beautifully embossed designs on their sides. Such were the quarto *Pupila Oculi*, now nearly destroyed; also a Thophylactus on the Gospels, the binding of which is in excellent preservation and a treat to the eyes. The tone of the leather is a rich brown, and on one side are represented in clear relief all the instruments of the Crucifixion surrounding a central cross, with "Redemptoris Mūdi Arma" beneath in old black letter. The reverse is a large Tudor rose, with a legend difficult in some parts to decipher. The arms of the City of London appear in one of the corners. An exactly similar binding from the old church library at King's Norton, near Birmingham, has recently excited much attention, and was described by Mr. Brassington in the fifth number of "The Bookbinder."

The books, although cared for now, have evidently been greatly neglected in the past. Many titles and contents have been cut away with a sharp knife, probably to supply a want in a similar work owned by the mutilator. It may not be uninteresting to finish with a few remarks upon other chained libraries. The only one in England known to me is that at Hereford.

The collection of books in Hereford Cathedral is an exceptional instance of a genuine Monastic Library. It contains about 2,000 volumes, of which about 1,500 are chained. The books are for the special use of the Canons in residence, who, however, cannot find it very convenient to consult chained volumes. The catalogue, also chained, classifies the books in eight divisions, of which the Manuscripts are by far the most interesting as well as the most valuable. The printed books are ranged under the following heads:—Bibles and Concordances; Fathers of the Church; Ecclesiastical History; Civil History; Theology; Law and Education; Miscellaneous. The collection, formerly in the Lady Chapel, was removed, chains and all, in 1862, to the Archives Chamber. Each chain is between three and four feet long, with a swivel in the centre which is useful in preventing entanglement. Many books are, notwithstanding the chains, missing; and all are more and less injured by the rough

usage which chains necessitate, thus strongly confirming the evidence afforded by the Wimborne Minster Library.

Nichols in his *Illustrations of Manners and Expenses*, says that there were many chained books at Grantham in Lincolnshire, but does not enumerate them; also that when Selden's books were sent to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the sum of £25 10s. was paid for new chains. Taking the chains at a cost of sixpence each, they would serve for 1,120 volumes. In the reign of Henry III. the whole library of Oxford University consisted of only a few books, some of which were chained, and some locked in chests in St. Mary's Church. In 1683 the library of King's College, Cambridge, was in chains, and among the rules for the guidance of the scholars was this: "For the rendering his business about the library more easy, each person that makes use of any books in the said library is required to set them up again decently, without entangling the chains." This entanglement must have been very inconvenient, as it was a fault easily committed when the chains hung so close together.

From the parochial accounts of Ecclesfield Church we learn that in the year 1606 there were eleven religious works chained there.

Other countries adopted the same custom of securing their books. Probably the largest collection of chained books in existence is in the Laurentian Library at Florence, where they rest, row upon row, large and small, upon richly carved wooden desks.

Allow me to conclude with a most veracious scrap of bibliographical history. In the church of St. Walberg, at Zutphen, in Holland, there was a large collection of books which, being all of a religious tendency, excited the animosity of the Devil, who on several occasions gained admittance and stole the best of them. The evidence was indisputable, for the marks of his cloven feet upon the flagstones showed plainly, not only the personality of the thief, but the very course he had taken in his sacrilegious visits. The matter was serious, for no one could tell where the depredations would stop, so a consultation was held, and the determination taken to secure the whole of the residue with holy chains, after which his Satanic Majesty discreetly kept at a distance; and there the books have remained ever since, undisturbed, except by the ubiquitous tourist.

WILLIAM BLADES.

An Old Account.

A PROPOS of the preceding article, the following extracts made from the Accounts connected with the Church of St. Michael, Cornhill, have a special interest. The years to which they refer are from 1456 to 1475:—

"Payd for ij cheynys to teye wh ij sautye (psalter) bokys lying in the chapel of Saint Catryn	ijs. ijd.
"For amendyng of a cheyne for a boke in oure Lady Chapell	iiijd.
"Payde for wryting of the copy of Pynchon's testament	iijs. iiijd.
"Payde at Seynt Bartilmewe's Spytell for the same testament	viijd.
"It'm, for pap. and for wryting of Pynchon's last testament	ijs. jd.
"Payd to Danvers for counsell of the same testament	iijs. iiijd.
"Payd to Calop, for ij rolles of p'chemyn (parchment) to make with this boke ...	xxs.
"Payd for makyng and byndyng of the same boke, and for clapces (clasps)	iijs. iiijd.
"Payde to S. Will'm for v queyres of prykked song	ixs. ijd.
"Payed to Sir William Barbour for prykkying of a masse	xd.
"Payde to Roberd's clerk for prekyng of a masse in the cherche boke	xvjd.
"Payd to the scolle-me of Polles, for wrytyng of the masse in Englysh and ye Benedicities	vs.
"Payd for viij sawlters (psalters) in Englyshe...	vjs. viijd.
"Of Mr. Hurst, for a massyng boke	vs."



"The Most Exacting Critic."

"Mr. Penquill writes in a style that would satisfy *the most exacting critic.*"

"The draughtsmanship and colour of Mr. Brushwell's work would satisfy *the most exacting critic.*"

"Even *the most exacting critic* would be pleased with the superb acting of Mr. Boardson."

Vide Daily and Weekly Papers.

IT would be exceedingly interesting to know where The Most Exacting Critic is to be found. Hath eye seen, or ear heard, or hand touched him? For many years he has haunted the back-stairs of art and letters, turning up now and then, but only through other men's pens, like the invoked shade of one of the immortals. While hundreds of others grow grey in the service of very critical criticism, this unseen and unheard member of the craft has the immortality of an unquestioned classic. He is a criterion and paragon for the lesser sons and daughters of criticism to look up to, to invoke, to refer to, to give the stamp and tone of authority to their unauthoritative utterances—in short, The Most Exacting is surely the patron and paragon saint of criticism sitting enthroned, with an aureole of quills, somewhere in the highest heaven of the many heavens of art.

There is something absolutely supernatural about his goings and comings. He is here and he is nowhere. He is a present absentee. He was in yesterday's papers but not in to-day's, though he may turn up in all the "evenings" and most of the weeklies. But with all this indirect appearance in print in a secondhand way through other men's pens, no editor I suppose has ever dealt with his "copy," no compositor ever set it up, no reader read it, and I suppose no gentler outside reader has ever seen the veritable opinions of The Most Exacting Critic in print? Indeed those who invoke his name always infer, whether they mean it or not, that the Most Exacting is certainly a most inactive being, resting idly on his world-wide reputation and authority. We are never told that he has really *read* anybody's book, or that he has actually *seen* a given year's Royal Academy or Grosvenor Gallery, or that he, *the authority*

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of authorities, ever sat out a play and then sat up to write a single word about it—no, no, we are only told that if this great, lazy, indifferent and lethargic authority would read, would view, and would deign to attend a performance, he—yes, even he—would be satisfied with the result ; it would bear the scrutiny of even his imperious gaze. Does he ever, or has he ever read books, viewed pictures, and attended dramatic performances ? If not, by what magic has he obtained his power ; by what process has he become exalted to the supreme, but invisible judgment-seat of art ?

But, with all humility and respect—what an ungrateful, ungracious, insatiable monster he must be ! He is continually being told (that is, if he reads or hears the cries of earthly critics) that certain good, capital, exquisite, delightful, superb, subtle, inspiring, imaginative, realistic, æsthetic things in literature and art would be sure to—or ought to—satisfy him ; but it has never been publicly announced, you never read it in the Literary and Art Notes, you never see it stated in the *Gazette*, that this high and mighty Most Exacting has been, once and for ever and all time, so thoroughly satisfied with anything written or painted or produced by ever-producing man, that he never again wants to see a book, a picture, or a play, on this literary, artistic, and theatrical globe.

Surely the ways of The Most Exacting are wonderful and beyond the reckonings of man. In publishers' advertisements—or, to write by the card, lest The Most Exacting should hear the scratch of this quill—in publishers' *announcements* we read the well-displayed Press Opinions culled from those widely-known earthly authorities, *The Hath-an-eye-on-'em*, *The Hack-at-em-y*, or *The Specked-Hater*, but never are the opinions of that invisible authority, The Most Exacting, quoted by a single firm. His sphinx-like silence may after all be the only fitting hint of his inexpressible exactitude. This unquotable silence, this unprintable standard of his, may be the only way of suggesting his imperial power of judgment—a judgment which could not brook the indignity of being *stated* for the possible pricking and pecking of a thousand irreverent pens. His may be an unspeakable standard of judgment, far above the petty, thought-echoing mocking of words, words, words ; far, far too ethereal for the gross materiality of pens and paper, the heavy leadenness of type, or the thick blackness of printers' ink. Mercy ! If this invisible, all-present, all-absent Being

could for once be *induced* to speak! What then? What! Would literature shrivel into waste paper; art into rags and bits of old marble; and the drama into carpenter's chips? His august majesty, The Most Exacting, in the background of his long reticence, may be collecting supernaturally penetrating notes on the picture galleries and the swelling libraries of the past twenty years to issue a criticism that will settle upon a logical system for all time the wavering and contradictory tastes of this muddle-minded world.

But to set aside the supernatural attributes—if The Most Exacting could only be found, caught and caged! What an attraction for an International Exhibition, or the next Copyright Congress, or the dinners of the Press Club, or Savage Club, or as a demon in a Drury Lane pantomime. One would dearly like to see him, to see even his clothes, his hat or his boots, to see even how he laces his laces, and what size of collar he wears. Is he—married? Poor Mrs. Most Exacting! What dire domestic calamities if she does not dot her “i’s,” or cross her “t’s,” or aspirate the proper “h’s,” or mistakes a Raphael for an Angelo, or a Rembrandt for—well for anybody but Rembrandt; or if at all times, and on all occasions, and in all conditions, asleep, awake, in company or out of it, she did not appear as the perfection of art, which is the perfected perfection of nature. If she did not speak like the poets, live like a book, and trim her very nails to beauty—what onslaughts of pen, paper, ink, and scissors and paste that poor woman would have to endure. If not married, whom *would* he marry? Picture The Most Exacting paying court to his fair one. Why, he would stop a kiss at the moment of its mingling to authenticate *the* way of pursing the lips to sip the nectar of love. He would indeed. His heart too would flutter in a scarlet fever of unrest if his arm did not encircle her waist in accordance with *the* description of *the* poet; and he would fume and fret unutterable criticisms if the ignoring rays of the moon did not fall on his fair one’s face and make her still fairer, according to the tenets of his favourite moonlight artist; and, oh, what sadness and madness of the pictorial soul if the ignoring moonbeams made no picture of—him!

These are wild surmises. The man may, after all, be dead. The slack criticisms of these days and the criticisms of criticisms and the counter criticisms on these again, may have done for him. He may have died of a broken heart, if The Most Exacting

Critic or any critic may be credited with that little pendulum which regulates the time of sensibility and sentiment.

It is a relief to reflect, however, that he may not yet be born. These allusions to him in the press may simply be prophetic sounds and signs of the coming of *the* coming man. He may be biding his time, waiting until the paper Babel of criticism has been built to a toppling height, waiting until a few more of the builders have thrown each other over the walls, and until the confusion of tongues becomes so confused that the building of the Babel of Books will stop.

There is yet another surmise. He may not be a man at all. The Most Exacting may be a—woman! A living breathing woman?—save us!—a living breathing woman with her eye—I beg her pardon, with her eyes—on this page now? Excuse me, Mr. Editor, I positively decline to follow this surmise further. Man though I am, I dare not. A woman? Mercy on us all!

WILLIAM TIREBUCK.

Psalters at Peterhead.

A MOST remarkable collection, dae ye say? " queried the genial publisher of the *P— S—*, with a twinkle in his eye; "weel, weel, I've nae doot ye're richt; ye ken aboot thae things, but I dinna pretend tae ken muckle aboot King Dauvit. If it had been Scots Ballads I could hae taen verse aboot wi' ye."

The collection spoken of in these high terms was a collection of Psalters, and our friend made his characteristic rejoinder, not in a large public library where such a collection might be expected, but in a snug little room in far-away Peterhead.

I had paid a long-promised visit to the "most easterly town in Scotland, the seat of an immense traffic in herrings," &c., &c., (see guide books), and my host had invited his friend Dauvit and Bailie A— to meet me for a night of it among the books.

Dauvit was full of humour, the Bailie and my friend full of lore, and I a willing listener. I mentally recorded a resolution to make "copy" from what I heard, but felt sorry to think that in an article destined for the pages of a serious magazine like the *Library* it would be impossible for me to give any idea of the flow of quaint humour which made the meeting so delightful.

One good service I shall most certainly have done in indicating the existence and whereabouts of a notable collection of books. Beside this, it may count as little to have put on record one more distinguishing feature to those in which Peterhead already rejoices. Ask a well-informed Scotsman what he associates with Peterhead, and he will tell you—after mentioning herrings and granite (if he has been in Peterhead he will add the keeper of the Museum)—that Peterhead was the birth-place of Peter Buchan, and for a time the home of John Skelton, the "*Shirley*" of *Fraser and Blackwood*. Breathes there a Scot, and especially a north country Scot, who has not heard of Peter Buchan, the author of the *Peterhead Smugglers*, and the *Ballads of the North East Coast of Scotland*, as picturesque and erratic a being as ever bore the name of author? The same Scotsman, if he were really well informed upon the history of his own country—and most Scotsmen are—would further tell you that it was at Peterhead that the Old Pretender, feeble in mind and body, landed on Christmas Day, 1715, not however, as it proved, to lead the gallant fellows who risked their lives and their lands for

him, but to sneak away again at the first rumour of danger. James Keith (brother of George, Earl Marischall, one of the leaders of the insurrection), rose to be a Field Marshal in the army of Frederick the Great, and a statue of him, the gift of the late Emperor William, stands in the principal street of Peterhead.

To these distinctions must now be added that in Peterhead is located a collection of books on an important but little known subject, a collection hardly surpassed out of the great national libraries. It has been gathered together too under circumstances of exceptional difficulty, owing to the distance of Peterhead from the great centres of book-selling.

Six hundred miles from London one has very few opportunities of filling the rôle of the early bird. Even the telegraph does not help here, as by the time a catalogue gets so far north, most of the plums have been picked. No prowling round book-shops, no rummaging of boxes for the poor bibliophile whose business keeps him in the country—nothing but catalogues, and late ones too. Despite these drawbacks, Mr. W. L. Taylor has gathered his treasures together, but it has taken a long time to do it.

For forty years he has been a votary of the delectable sport of book hunting.

Mr. Taylor has not confined his book-buying to one subject, but it is the special feature of his collection which lifts his library out of the ordinary run, and makes it worth bringing under the notice of the readers of the *Library*.

Although probably no portion of Holy Writ or indeed any other work has been so often translated and versified as the Psalms of David, yet a complete collection of all the editions of all the Psalters ever issued would not make an overwhelmingly big library, and Psalters, also be it remembered, are usually small books, so that compared to the library of, say, an admirer of *éditions de luxe*, Mr. Taylor's collection would need to hide its diminished head. The whole of the Psalters could sit comfortably in a book-case of modest dimensions, but to place them there would mean an expenditure of time and money, which would furnish the individuals who buy their books by the yard with two or three libraries.

The metrical versions of the Psalms alike of France, England and Scotland, owed their publication to Court influence. In France, Clement Marot, "the inventor of the rondeau, and the restorer of the madrigal," was a valet of the bed-chamber to

Francis I., and his version of the Psalms was sung by the ladies and gentlemen of the Court and became popular.

The earliest attempt towards a complete metrical version of the Psalms in England was commenced in the reign of Edward VI. by Thomas Sternhold, a gentleman of the Privy Chamber. In Scotland the Genevan Psalter won the sympathies of the people, and was not supplanted even by a version said to have been translated by King James VI., although it is now known to have been mainly the work of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling. In Scotland more than in any other country have the metrical Psalms of David influenced the life and literature of the people.

In England the version of Sternhold and Hopkins was the authorized one from 1564 to 1700. Tait and Brady's version was authorized in 1696 after many other versions had been zealously promoted for that honour. A large proportion of these versions never got further than to be circulated among the bishops and other ecclesiastics whom it was desired to influence. Copies of these editions are therefore now very difficult to obtain. Mr. Taylor has most of them. As we have said, the Genevan was the first version in use in Scotland, but it was superseded in 1650 by the "Rous" version, as sanctioned by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, and this version remains in use in Scotland up to the present time. These have been the authorized versions, but as many as 120 complete versions have been published, and more than twice that number of partial versions.

The subject has still its fascination, as the production of a new version every now and again proves. In presenting our notes on Mr. Taylor's collection it is expedient to divide them into the historic three heads: 1st, Psalters; 2nd, Complete Metrical versions of the Psalms; 3rd, Partial versions of the Psalms. To these might perhaps be added a fourth, on the literature of the subject.

Taking the first, *i.e.*, Psalters, we find that Mr. Taylor possesses the exceedingly rare little book by William Hunnis, entitled *Seuen Sobs of a sorrowfull Soule for sinne comprehending those seuen Psalmes of the Princelie Prophet David, commonlie called Penitential, framed into a forme of familiar Praires and reduced into meeter by William Hunnis, whereunto are also annexed his handful of honnie-suckles, the Poor Widow's mite*, London, 1585. Another rare volume is the *Psalms of David in metre according as they are sung in the Kirk of Scotland, together with the Conclusion, or Gloria Patri eftir the Psalm and alsua ane Prayer after euerie Psalm agreing with the mening thairof*. Printed at Edinburgh be Henrie Charteris, 1595.

The Geneva Psalter, Edinburgh, Andro Hart, 1615, is a much-sought-after specimen of the printing of a famous Edinburgh printer. It is here of course. Mr. Taylor is also the happy possessor of *Fifti Select Psalms of David and others, paraphrastically turned into English verse, and by Robert Tailour set to be sung in five parts, as also to the Viole and lute or orpharion. Published for the use of such as delight in music in hir original honour*, London, 1615; Ravenscroft's Psalter, "composed into 4 parts by sundry Authors to such seuerall Tunes as haue beene and are vsually sung in England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands. Neuer as yet before in one Volumne published," London, 1621; Ainsworth's Psalter, 1617; Knox's Liturgy and Psalter, Andro Hart, Edinburgh, 1622; King James's version and Psalter, London, 1636; Barton's (of Leicester) first edition, London, 1644; Henry Lawes', of the Chapel Royal, 1648; La Scala Santa, by Loredano, London, 1656; Marot and Beza's, Huguenot Psalter with Liturgy, Paris, 1675; Patrick's Psalter, London, 1691; Playford's Psalter, London, 1697; Luke Milbourne's Psalter, London, 1698; Tansur's Psalm Singers' Jewel, 1760; and various Dutch, German, and American Psalters from 1600 to the New Psalter of the Presbyterian Church of North America, Pittsburg, 1887.

Of the complete metrical versions we have copies of Sternhold and Hopkins, with music in all sizes from 1600 to 1638; Beza's translated by A. Gilbie, Denham, London, 1581; a scarce little Psalm Book, printed at Edinburgh by R. Charteris in 1603 (from Lea Wilson's library); copies of the rendering of the Psalms by George Buchannan and Arthur Johnston (in Latin), Sir Philip Sidney, George Wither (printed in the Netherlands, 1632), Sandys, 1648, Burnaby, 1638, Barton, 1644, Rous, 1646, Zachary Boyd's, 1648, an exceedingly scarce volume, and the original edition of the Scottish version of 1650, with the order of the General Assembly and Estates Committee. The *Bay Psalm Book*, a literal reprint of the earliest New England version of the Psalms, and the first book printed in America, 1640 (one of 50 copies). This was published by the late Henry Stevens, "of Vermont."

Scarce versions are here, such as Bishop King's, 1651; White of Dorchester's, 1655; Bishop Woodford's, 1667; Sir John Denham's; Myles Smyth's, 1668; Robert's, 1674; Ford's, 1688; Patrick's, 1691; and Richard Baxter's, 1692. This last was the

copy lent to Orme when writing his life of Baxter, and to Holland when writing his *Psalmists of Britain*, and it has additional value in containing MSS. notes. Other versions in the collection are Sir Richard Blackmore's, 1721; Wesley's, Pike's, Hare's, Fennick's, Merrick's, Kitt Smart's, Dr. Watt's, Tate and Brady in many editions (including a copy of the suppressed version with objectionable renderings), Daniel Burgess' version, with autograph of Dr. Philip Doddridge, Maxwell's curious version in which he excludes all reference to instrumental music; those by Barclay of the Bereans, and Boswell of the Sandemanians; Swedenborg and Moravian versions; the version translated from the Vulgate by Mr. Carryl (created Lord Dartford by the Pretender) printed at St. Germain en Laye, 1704; versions by Cottle of Bristol, Walford, Mant, Sankey, Keble, Cheyne, Lord Congleton; Richard's version translated from the vulgate and revised by Cardinal Wiseman; Stowe's "dedicated to Jehovah;" Margaret Patullo's version, the copies of which as far as possible were collected by her friends and destroyed; the Cleveland Psalter, Eden's, Skurray's, Bowring's, the Marquis of Lorne's and many anonymous versions. Scarce American versions are present, such as those by Bartrum, Joel Barlow, Allen, Abner Jones, Burgess of Hartford, with copies of the more recent such as De Witt's and Abraham Coles, New York, 1888. In Lowland Scotch there is the version issued privately by Prince Lucien Bonaparte in 1857, and there are versions in Dutch, French, German, Welsh, Gaelic, Scotch, Sanskrit Verse and Chinese.

Our third section—Partial Versions—is a voluminous one, and we can only mention a few, such as Miles Coverdale's *Ghostly Psalms*, Montgomery's *Mindes Melodie*, the *Seven Penitential Psalms* from a MS. of 1414, *Thirteen Psalms* by John Croke in the reign of Henry VIII., Alexander Scott's, 1568, Chamberlain's, 1680. *The Gude and Godly Ballates*, Mason's, Kennett's, Burgess's, Doddridges', Steele's, Goode's, Middleton's, Wolsley's, Bowdler's, Woodd's, Dale's, James Montgomery's, Lyte's, Conder's, Cromwell's (prepared for the service when he was proclaimed Lord Protector in 1651), the Salisbury Psalter, 1781, compiled from Psalms by Addison, Blacklock, Milton, Rowe, Sowden, Tollet, and others; the curious version by Hooper of Boston, 1764; Coldwell's, Usher's, Judkin's, Barrett's of Bristol, 1786, and the version of Robert Bruce Boswell printed at the Church Mission Press in Calcutta, in 1838, by a grandson of the Mr. Boswell who wrote the version used by the Sandemanians.

The literature of the subject is well represented, but we need only mention a few of the more scarce and curious works. Luther on the Fifteen Psalms of Degrees, translated by Henry Bull, London; Thomas Vautrollier, 1577; David Dickson's *Explication of the last Fifty Psalms*, 1654; *Holy David and his old English translators cleared*, London, 1706; Ainsworth's (the Brownist) *Annotations*, 1617; Merrick's *Annotations*, Reading, 1768 (with MSS. notes by the late Bishop Wheeler and Dr. Bliss); *Disney on Psalms, notes critical and explanatory*, by Neil Douglass, "Preacher of the Restoration," with an extraordinary dedication "To Immanuel King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (he was tried for sedition at Edinburgh, 1817); Todd's *History of the Metrical Versions*, 1822; Dr. Lee's *Memorial for the Bible Societies in Scotland* (suppressed), 1824; Dr. Laing's *Notes on the Metrical Versions*, privately printed; Holland's *Psalmists of Britain*, 1843; Dr. Cotton's *Editions of the Bible and parts thereof*, 1852; Professor Mitchell's *The Wedderburns and their Work*; treatises by Henry, Brown, Coleman, Didham, and Binnie MacLagan's *History of the Paraphrases*; Dr. Neil Livingstone's well-known work on Scottish Psalters, *Anthologia Davidica*; and Drake's *Harp of Judah*. Hymn books of every section of the Christian Church and works on Hymnology are in the collection. Such is a rough outline of this gathering of Psalters, a collection, brought together under circumstances of great difficulty.

Naturally Mr. Taylor is well up in his favourite subject. He is acquainted with the distinguishing marks of every known Psalter, and recent writers on Psalmody, such as Glass and MacLagan, have gratefully acknowledged his assistance. With all this it is but right to repeat that Mr. Taylor has not confined himself to the Psalters, although these form the most striking feature of his library.

The library contains a number of interesting old Bibles, with an excellent selection of works on the history of the Bible. Books of Proverbs are present, including the rare first edition of Ferguson's collection of Scottish Proverbs.

We can only mention Mr. Taylor's large collection of the works of early Scottish poets of Ballad Literature and Peterhead books. He possesses nearly all Peter Buchan's productions, and has recently written an admirable Bibliography of Peterhead periodical literature.

THOMAS MASON.

Old School Books.

School, School-Books and Schoolmasters : A contribution to the history of educational development in Great Britain. By W. Carew Hazlitt. London, J. W. Jarvis & Son, 1888. Sm. 8vo. pp. viii., 300.

The A B C, both in Latyn and Englyshe : Being a facsimile reprint of the earliest extant English reading-book. With an introduction by E. S. Shuckburgh, M.A., Librarian of Emmanuel College. London, E. Stock, 1889. 8vo. pp. xii., [18]

THAT Mr. Hazlitt has written an interesting book upon school-books no one acquainted with his numerous contributions to literature and bibliography will for a moment doubt. Even lists of titles are made entertaining reading by him, as witness his "Collections and Notes" and "Handbook." And if from such slender material pleasant results can be obtained, how much more in a work in which he treats of the origin and development of our English school-books from a period long anterior to the invention of printing.

Mr. Hazlitt's object, as stated in his preface, is "to trace the sources and rises of our educational system, and to present a general view of the principles on which the ground work of this system was laid." We venture to think that if in place of such an ambitious programme he had been content to confine his attention to the school-books and their compilers he would have given us a work of greater value and free from the distorted views upon religious education which disfigure many of the pages. The assertion that "the Bible is for scholars, not for school folk," may, perhaps, contain half-a-truth, but that "Jeremy Bentham demonstrated nearly a century ago" that "the Catechism is trash," however convincing it may be to Mr. Hazlitt, was a statement which could not fail to wound the feelings of many of his readers.

Passing over the works of foreigners, printed for use in England, we may mention that the earliest compiler of school-books in this country was John Annaquil, first master of Magdalen College School, Oxford. He was succeeded, both as school-master and school-book writer by John Stanbridge, a name well known to students of early English printing. The next writer in order of time was Robert Whittinton, who was educated under Stanbridge, and who in turn had as a scholar the celebrated William Lily. Mr. Hazlitt justly remarks: "It is

not too much to say that during three hundred years all our great men, all our nobility, all our princes owed to this hereditary dynasty, as it were, the elementary portion of their scholastic and academical breeding."

One section of Mr. Hazlitt's work is of special interest in conjunction with a recent reprint of what is considered the earliest extant English reading-book, and to that we must confine our remarks for the present. After mentioning the Abacus as a means of instructing the young, Mr. Hazlitt writes that "prior to the Reformation was added the printed A B C, accompanied by prayers and a metrical version of the Decalogue, and in 1553 appeared the first Protestant A B C and Catechism for the use of schools and the young." But if we take the Act of Supremacy, 26 Henry VIII. cap. 1, January 15th, 1535, as the date of the breach with Rome, it will be seen that the attempt to fix on so late a date as 1553 for the first "Protestant" A B C is a mistake. The little tract which Mr. Shuckburgh has edited has been assigned by an authority second to none on such matters—the late Mr. Henry Bradshaw—to about the year 1538, or some three years after the breach with Rome had become unhealable. This will place the first reformed A B C, or, indeed, the first A B C of any kind, at a date long anterior to that stated by Mr. Hazlitt.

In the same chapter Mr. Hazlitt writing of instruction in schools, states that "the course seems to have been to commence with the A B C and Catechism, and then proceed to the Primer." He continues: "When I speak here of the *Primer* I must take care to distinguish between the service-book, so styled, and the Manual for the Young." Now it is greatly to be desired that bibliographers and students in general should arrive at an understanding as to the terminology to be applied in writing of these three distinct kinds of books. The service-book appears to have the prior claim to the title *Primer*, as it is not until a comparatively recent date that the manuals for instruction are so designated. Besides, there are very strong reasons for applying this generic name to the service books. The title is peculiar to English service-books, or rather books of devotion, and very aptly points to that class of book in which the whole or part is in the vernacular. However wide apart these books may be in date or doctrine, ranging from pre-reformation times to the reign of James II., they are all constructed on the lines of the old *Hours*, or Hours of the Blessed Virgin.

But, if Mr. Hazlitt through his attempt to define the differ-

ence between Primers, Manuals for the Young, and A B C's has drawn from us this remonstrance, what shall we say of the confusion which reigns paramount in Mr. Shuckburgh's introduction? He commences by naming the tract which is reproduced in facsimile, an "A B C Primer," and a little later, dropping the qualifying letters, styles it "primer." In the next page he writes: "The object of Primers, to which the A B C was thus a kind of introduction, and what they were expected to contain, is set forth in the preface to 'thenglysh primer,' published by authority in 1535." Now the A B C undoubtedly was intended to lead up to the Manuals for the Young, but could only be termed "a kind of introduction" to the Primer in the same sense as every first lesson book bears to all books used by the scholar in after-life; and, if in place of quoting the Primer of 1535, Mr. Shuckburgh had turned to that of 1545, he would have found the objects of issuing the A B C more clearly and distinctly stated. It is there said, that "the kynges hynes greatly tēderyng the welth of his realme hath suffered heretofore the pater noster, aue, crede, and ten cōmaundementes of god to be hadde in the Englyshe tongue but his grace perceuyng nowe the great diuersitie of the translations hath wylled them all to be taken up, and in stede of them hath caused ane uniforme translation of the sayde Pater Noster, Aue, Crede and the ten commaundementes to be set forth as hereafter foloweth willyng all his louynge subiectes to lerne and use y^e same." This indicates the great importance which Henry VIII. attached to the translation of the Pater Noster, Ave, and Credo in the vernacular, and although it appears to countenance the idea advanced by Mr. Shuckburgh, that the A B C's were unauthorized, yet it is equally clear that some supervision was exercised over them, both as educational and religious channels of instruction.

The facsimile is unsatisfactory in several respects. We cannot tell whether the leaf bearing the words "The A B C" is included in the original. We believe not, as the tract is probably one of eight leaves. But even here we can only surmise that it is a sheet in eights, for on the second leaf we find a signature C and on the tenth leaf is signature D, both signature letters no doubt introduced to assist the binder of the present reproduction, and having no place in the original. If such extraneous matter is shown upon what purports to be a photographic facsimile, it is desirable that square brackets or some other means of distinguishing the new from the old be used.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.

In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

BARNESLEY, YORKSHIRE.—Mr. C. Harvey, of Park House, near Barnsley, has decided to give the Public Hall in that town to the Corporation for the purposes of a free library and for the encouragement of education. The building was erected eleven years ago at a cost of nearly £24,000.

BLACKBURN.—The *Blackburn Times* of November 9th contains an historical account of the Blackburn Free Library and Museum, and a good portrait of the late Mr. David Geddes, librarian.

BRENTFORD.—The Libraries Acts have been adopted by the rate-payers of Brentford at a public meeting. There was only one adverse vote.

BRIGHTON.—The Victoria Free Lending Library, which is to form Brighton's permanent memorial of the Queen's Jubilee, was opened on October 16th by Alderman E. Sendall, Mayor of the town. The lending library contains 17,545 volumes, while the reference library has 12,200.

DUBLIN : ARCHBISHOP MARSH'S LIBRARY.—This library is open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Saturdays from 11 to 1. The 179th annual visitation was held on October 16th, when the librarian, Mr. George I. Stokes, reported that during the preceding year the library had been visited by about four hundred persons, a considerable number of whom came for the purpose of consulting the valuable manuscript collections. A gift from the Government, consisting of five volumes of calendars and 166 volumes of the Chronicles contained in the Rolls series had been received, and many purchases had been made. Mr. Stokes said, "I have made it my object as Librarian to add books bearing on Ireland and Irish history, as well as foreign works bearing on historical questions, copies of which do not exist in other libraries in this city. During the year I purchased, at the suggestion of Dean West, some maps and plans of St. Patrick's Cathedral, stolen from that cathedral at some past period. They have been bound and stamped, and are not likely to be lost again. The assistant librarian also found in a press during the spring an astronomical treatise in Irish, a manuscript of the 14th or 15th century. It was in a very decayed state, without binding or cover. It has now, however, been bound and repaired in a very efficient manner by Mr. Caldwell, the bookbinder to the Library."

KIDDERMINSTER.—An anonymous donor has offered to contribute a large sum towards the erection of a free library for Kidderminster, the present accommodation being insufficient.

LEICESTER.—The second of a series of free lectures was given on Saturday, November 2nd, by Mr. F. S. Herne, librarian of the Permanent Library. Mr. Herne chose for his subject, "Books, their Use and Misuse," and was listened to by a numerous and appreciative audience.

LINCOLN.—A free reading room and library in connection with the Lincoln Co-operative Society was opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury on November 2nd. Addressing himself to the question of free libraries, the Archbishop said people must read the books they had. Cultivation could not possibly be given to any man; it must be earned by every man for himself. They must know what to read and how to read. There were three weapons to be used in setting themselves to work to cultivate themselves by means of a library—first, the supply of books; secondly, attention; and thirdly, they must look on the great world and see how the phenomena described in the books corresponded with the outside phenomena. He should recommend them always to have one study, one thing really to work at, and that they should do thoroughly. If they took political economy they should get the great standard books and not those of agitators or of superficial students. Many people threw away their best time in reading the red-and-yellow rubbish of novels which were so popular. Why should that be, when the English language possessed the great majority of the very finest novels in the world? Then, again, the newspapers contained a vast deal they ought not to contain; there was much that was foul and corrupting, and young people suffered by it. That would not be so if there were not plenty of people to read it, and the grievance would soon be remedied if working men would discountenance the papers containing such vile stuff. His Grace also advocated illustrated papers and books as great educational mediums.

LONDON: BATTERSEA.—The Library Commissioners have accepted (provisionally) a tender to erect a branch library in Lurline Gardens, Battersea Park Road, for the sum of £1,641.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—Mr. Edward Foskett has been appointed chief librarian of the Camberwell Free Libraries.

LONDON: CLAPHAM.—The new Free Library at Clapham was formally opened on October 30th by Sir John Lubbock. The library is situated in an excellent position in the Orlando Road, facing Clapham Common. It is a large building, with lofty rooms, comprising a lending library, a reference library and news room on the ground floor, while on the first floor is a large apartment devoted to the purposes of a museum. For the present the committee start with from 4,000 to 5,000 volumes, but there is bookshelf accommodation for 20,000 volumes. One anonymous donor has given £2,000 towards the expenses of the erection of the building, and beyond this about £350 has been subscribed by residents in the locality for the purchase of books. With these sums, together with the small rate which is to be levied under the Public Libraries Act, means will soon be found to furnish the shelves in a more satisfactory manner. The attendance on the occasion of the opening was so large that many hundreds of persons were unable to obtain admission to the hall in which the ceremony was held. The Rev. C. P. Greene Rector of Clapham and Chairman of the Library Commissioners, presided. The Library Association was represented by Messrs. Burgoyne, Thomas Mason, Frank Pacy, Charles Welch, and Mr. Mac Alister (Hon. Sec.). The librarian and secretary is Mr. J. Reed Welch.

LONDON : LAMBETH (Speech by Lord Rosebery).—On November 6th Alderman Sir James Clarke Lawrence opened, at Kennington Cross, the third of the series of free libraries which are being built for the parish of Lambeth, under the superintendence of Mr. F. J. Burgoyne, librarian of the Lambeth Free Public Libraries. The site and building are the gift of Miss J. Durning Smith, and the total cost has been about £10,500. There are 7,000 volumes in the library, and Cotgreave's indicator is used.

There was a crowded assembly at the opening ceremony, and among those present were the Earl of Rosebery, the Rev. Canon Pelham (chairman of the commissioners), and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tate.

The Rev. Canon Pelham, who presided, said the first library erected at Norwood cost £4,200, and upon the second, built by Mr. Tate in the South Lambeth Road, the sum of £7,000 was expended. For the third library they were indebted to Miss Durning Smith. Mr. Noble had offered one for North Lambeth, and an anonymous donor had conditionally promised to give them one for Brixton and Stockwell, which would cost £14,000 or £15,000. The income of £2,700 produced by the halfpenny rate was not sufficient, and therefore they now asked for a penny rate. Already 169,245 books had been taken out of their two libraries in one year, and 348,000 people had visited the rooms.

Lord Rosebery, in moving a vote of thanks to Miss Durning Smith for her handsome gift, said that it was a source of sincere satisfaction to him to be present that day as chairman of the London County Council. He thought he could not more fitly wind up his year of office than by taking part in a work with which he so much sympathised. The distribution of some five hundred volumes daily among the people of that parish was an important leavening influence, and three or four centuries ago the greatest noble in the land, and even the Sovereign, could not boast of such a library. In pouring forth this daily fountain of knowledge they were doing something to raise the people of Lambeth and to enable them to discharge their civic responsibilities in a way that had never yet been done in the history of any metropolitan parish. Many questions were now seething round the County Council for solution, and their settlement would depend largely upon the spirit shown by the public—whether of ignorance or recklessness, or of educated appreciation of the relation of things. He admired the people of Lambeth for having boldly faced the library rate, which many great cities had flinched from doing, and he congratulated them upon the fact that they desired to make the rate one penny instead of a halfpenny as at present. It might be said that they had done without free libraries hitherto, and that they could continue to do without them; but the same argument was advanced in the case of railways and telegraphs, and by our ancestors against clothes when they were dressed in blue paint. That argument was used against every possible form of improvement of our species. He regarded their energy in this matter with admiration and respect, and believed that the unification of London which had recently taken place would induce parishes to vie with each other in making the most creditable record in this direction. It would now be a race between various districts to see which should be the model parish of London, and he ventured to say that when the competition was fairly in swing Lambeth would have every reason to congratulate itself on the start they had already made. He had been dazzled by the list of munificent gifts made to the commissioners, all of which seemed to have been prompted by the largest philanthropy and the noblest anxiety to raise and equalize all classes of the community. This was a good sign of the times, and was, he believed, largely due to this unity of the metropolis. The fact was that London was beginning to take an interest in itself. They had always been proud of their great national museum, of Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, and the Tower of London, but they were

always a little apt to regard them rather as interesting objects in a neighbouring town, as things over which they had no particular control, which were national and not London property. But now they felt they had a noble city of their own, that these were decorations of that noble city, of which they were very proud. It was something to feel that instead of a labyrinth of Vestries such as was the case last year, they had now a grand city to cherish. With the natural beauties of three cities—Edinburgh, Sydney, and Quebec—they could never hope to compete, but nevertheless they had an isolated grandeur of their own. They had an unparalleled population in their midst, and that alone would always give London an importance. They had this population to train, and they could not do that better than by multiplying free libraries; and he thought that Miss Smith and other benefactors would have the satisfaction of having done something large and tangible to fit and mould this huge population for a more useful life, and to ameliorate their condition. In doing that they were helping to build up that newer London of which the County Council had charge. They might not have the glitter of Paris or the pomp of Rome, but they could still keep London the first city in the world, and maintain its pre-eminence not only in size and numbers, but in the health, prosperity, and intelligence of its people. This much remained to be done, and from what he had heard that day, Lambeth was determined to take a leading part in the movement.

LONDON : MARYLEBONE (LISSON GROVE).—On Sunday, November 10th, the attendance was 300, and the average number of readers has been 781 each week day. The popularity of the lending library, though confined at present to Wards 2, 3, 4, and 5 is steadily increasing, and the reference department is very fairly used.

LONDON : ROTHERHITHE.—On October 23rd the memorial stone of the Rotherhithe Public Library and Museum was laid by the Rev. E. J. Beck, Chairman of the Commissioners.

LONDON : ROYAL VICTORIA HALL.—The library at the new Morley Memorial College, Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Bridge Road, S.E., has received a gift of a thousand volumes from Mr. J. Passmore Edwards. The library will be opened as soon as bookcases can be obtained.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Mr. Baker Hudson, of Redcar, has been appointed librarian of the Middlesbrough Free Library in the place of Mr. William Sterzel, resigned.

NELSON, LANCASHIRE.—The Free Library Committee have appointed Mr. David Rushton, a member of their own body, as librarian.

NORWICH.—On October 31st, Frank Miles Brown, of Blenheim House, North Heigham, was charged on remand with stealing from the Norfolk and Norwich Library 12 plates from Meyrick's "Ancient Armour." The accused was committed, bail (£200) being allowed.

NOTTINGHAM.—In connection with the Men's Sunday Morning Institute, University College, a teachers' library has been formed with funds given by the late Mr. Claude Harold Cooper, one of the first teachers at the Institute. The donor died a few weeks after giving the money for the establishment of the library. The collection is now known as "The Claude Cooper Memorial Library," and is under the charge of Mr. Briscoe. The library of the Baptist College is now being classified and catalogued with the co-operation of the borough librarian.

PETERHEAD.—Three gentlemen connected with a local newspaper having written to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, soliciting his aid towards the erection of a new free public library, that gentleman has replied as

follows :—"Your favour received. If Peterhead adopted the Free Library Act and raised a fund for a library building, I would give the *last* thousand pounds required for a suitable structure. In any other form the project would not interest me, for I believe the only sure means to secure permanent good from a library is to make it an affair of the community, and maintained by it officially."

POOLE : DORSET.—A new wing costing £200, which has just been added to the Poole Free Library by Mr. J. J. Norton, who recently built at his own expense the free library building itself, at a cost of £2,500, was formally opened on October 24th by Mr. George H. Bond, M.P. The proceedings included the unveiling by Mr. Bond of a portrait of Mr. Norton, which was accepted by the Mayor on behalf of the Corporation of Poole.

PORTSMOUTH.—The Free Library has been re-opened in temporary premises (Southsea Hall) where it will remain until the Town Hall is ready for use. Mr. Jewers and his staff transferred the whole stock (21,000 volumes) within ten days, and were prepared to issue to the public in exactly half the time allowed for the work.

WITHINGTON, NEAR MANCHESTER.—At the annual meeting of the Withington Public Hall and Library on October 30th, the Chairman asked whether the time had not arrived when a rate should be levied in support of the library. The Withington Local Board had not yet done so, although that section of the Board's area had a population of from 10,000 to 12,000. It might therefore be desirable for the members of that institution to petition the Local Board on the subject.

WOOLTON.—The question of the adoption of the Free Libraries Acts has been brought forward by the president of the village club, the Rev. G. Beaumont, who declares that the only way to make the excellent collection of books in the Mechanics' Institute Library really popular is for the inhabitants to adopt the Acts.

WREXHAM. The circulating branch of the Wrexham Free Library was formally opened on October 29th by Sir Robert Cunliffe. The Mayor, Sir Evan Morris, explained that, thanks to the success of their great National Eisteddfod, they had received £400 from the balance of the funds, and that formed the nucleus for establishing the free circulating library. They had now 2,000 volumes, but as the money received from the Eisteddfod committee was only to buy books they had no funds to keep the library going except by voluntary contributions. An income of £50 a year would be necessary to carry it on.

WREXHAM.—The Queen has sent, through Sir Theodore Martin, the two published volumes of her Journals, with an autograph inscription, to the Wrexham Free Library.

YORK : SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.—The committee of this library, in order to raise money for improving the building, have resolved to dispose of their copy of Audubon's "Birds of America," for which they hope to get £250. In this they are following the example of the Leeds Philosophical Society, whose copy of the same work was sold some time ago.

The Bernard Free Library at Rangoon has been enriched this year by the gift of a large collection of palm-leaf manuscripts, in Pali and Burmese, by two native gentlemen. These are valued at Rs. 10,000. The ceremony took place on January 8th, in the presence of all the members of the Educational Syndicate. This library now possesses a collection of palm-leaf MSS. far superior to any in the world, the value of which is estimated at Rs. 53,000. These MSS. are to be

catalogued by the Pali Professor in the High School at Rangoon. The nucleus of the library was formed about fourteen years ago, by the purchase of the late Professor Child's collection of printed books. Many valuable additions, by purchase and gift, have been made since that time.

The pressure on our space last month prevented us from announcing the election of Mr. Francis J. H. Jenkinson to the Librarianship of Cambridge University, but we are not, we trust, too late to congratulate the members of the Senate and all concerned on a most happy appointment. It is no disparagement to Mr. Clark's great services to say that there could be no question in the minds of those (a daily increasing number) who believe that a distinguished scholar or brilliant *litterateur* do not necessarily make a good librarian—as to which of the two candidates was the right man. Versed in the methods of that master of bibliography, Henry Bradshaw, Mr. Jenkinson brings to his task not only great learning, but that special knowledge which its adequate fulfilment requires. We offer him a hearty welcome to the craft that is honoured by his membership.

Mr. Hales, the librarian of Toynbee Hall, has published a pamphlet in which he endeavours to set before the working men of London the advantages offered to them by the Free Public Libraries. Recognising the fact that on week-days working men are too tired to make the best use of the Libraries, the author makes an earnest appeal for the opening of all libraries on Sunday. Mr. Hales adds a useful table of the libraries now open in London. Some of the press notices give amusing proof that the writers' knowledge is not equal to their taste. Quotations from Milton are selected for commendation but are ascribed to Mr. Hales.

In the *Athenæum* of November 16th, appeared a most interesting note on marbled paper. The writer describes a recent acquisition at South Kensington which seems to prove that Lord Bacon's account of the origin of marbled paper is probably correct and that Mr. Zaehnsdorf's statement (*Art of Book-binding*) as to its first importation by the Dutch is scarcely borne out by facts.

The pretty story of the destruction of the Alexandrian Library, "scotched" by Gibbon, but not killed has at length received its quietus at the hands of Prof. Karabacek who, during his investigation of the Archduke Rainer's Fayum Manuscripts, is said to have discovered "incontrovertible evidence" that the libel on Omar is false.

LONDON : SCHOOL BOARD LIBRARIES.—The *School Board Chronicle* of October 26th, contains the new regulations of the London School Board Lending Libraries.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Birmingham. The Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Free Libraries' Committee for the year 1888. pp. 41.

The reference library contains 99,500 vols., and the five lending libraries 58,658 vols., being 5,504 vols. more than stated in last Report ; but only 654 vols. are said to have been added to all the lending libraries. The year's issues in the former were 419,056 vols., and in the latter 542,901 vols., being a total increase on the issues of the previous year of 48,033 vols. No part of the reference library catalogue was issued. The Shakespeare Memorial Library contains 8,307 vols.

Folkestone. Free Public Library and Museum. Seventh Annual Report, 1888-9. pp. 8.

This Report covers a year and a quarter. The total issues were 25,197 vols., against 28,740 vols. in 1887. There were 241 new borrowers entered. The hourly countings for the period covered by the Report total to 87,510. A book fund has been started. There is no stock table. The museum was opened June 20th, 1889; the rate realised £541. About £350 a year is absorbed by payment of interest on a loan of £6,500. Only 30s. were spent in books!

Glasgow. Report of the Ninety-Eighth year of Stirling's and Glasgow Library (1888-9); with Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of Subscribers, held on April 9th, 1889. pp. 19.

There were 197,871 vols. issued from and in this library during the year, 61,640 vols. in the reference library, and 101,617 from the lending library, being a daily average of 338, or 19 more than in the preceding year. There are 932 subscribers. The directors acknowledge the services of Mr. Mason, the late librarian, now of St. Martin-in-the-Field, London. The library owes £1,967 to the bank. The year's expenditure was £1,213, of which sum £264 was for interest on a loan, which is now extinct. Mr. W. Hutton is librarian.

London. Clerkenwell Free Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending Department, 1889. 8vo, pp. vii., 308.

In this catalogue the titles of the books are given under the authors' names, the titles of the books, and under subjects. The three kinds of entries are distinguished by different founts of type. The work is good of its kind, and the errors and misprints are unimportant. The note appended to the titles of periodicals—"For contents see Poole's Index to Periodical Literature"—is somewhat misleading to the uninitiated, who will be led to expect a list of articles, &c., under the title of a periodical. A reference to a good catalogue in which contents are given at length would have been more useful to the general reader.

London. Clerkenwell Free Public Library. First Annual Report of the Commissioners, 1888-9. pp. 12.

The Public Libraries Acts were adopted for the parish in December 1887, and the Commissioners elected January 26, 1888. As the validity of the vote for the adoption of the Acts was challenged in the law courts, there was a delay of five months caused. The librarian (Mr. J. D. Brown, of Glasgow), entered upon his duties in October, 1888. The Worshipful Company of Skinners offered a suitable site for the permanent library building at a merely nominal rent, which was readily accepted. Part of the temporary premises were opened as a new's-room on November 20. There has been a daily average attendance of 202. The stock of books numbers about 10,000 vols., which will soon be available to the parishioners.

London. Paddington Free Public Library (*not under the Acts*). First Annual Report (for the year 1888). pp. 26.

This library is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. The daily average attendance has been 158 on weekdays and 98 on Sundays. There have been presented to the library 1,537 vols. The reference library was opened October 16th. The donations and subscriptions amount to £678.

Leek. The Nicholson Institute, established 1884. Report for the year ending March 25th, 1889. pp. 13.

This is the fourth annual report of the work of the Institute, and the first since the adoption of the Acts by the ratepayers of Leek. The stock of books now numbers 6,867 vols., besides specifications of patents. The issues from the lending library during the year numbered 83 vols., and in the reference library 19 vols. There were 214 persons admitted to membership, and 16 weekly lectures were given. The library rate reached £147. The representatives of the founder added £162. The total receipts amounted to £348.

Norwich. The Report of the Free Library Committee to the Town Council, 1888-9. pp. 20.

"For the juvenile department (to be worked in connection with the elementary schools of the city) some 2,700 volumes have been purchased, at a cost of about £210, and the Sub-Committee . . . hope to complete the 3,500 volumes required, and have them circulating in the schools shortly." The subscriptions received in aid of the project amount to £269. The lending library contains 11,966 vols., and the reference library 6,060 vols., the latter total including 1,400 vols. of local interest. There were 1,020 borrowers added during the year. The daily average issues were 348 vols. The year's expenditure amounted to £1,446, which includes £200 as the last instalment of a loan.

Rochdale. The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Rochdale, for the year ending March 31st, 1889. pp. 19.

The reference library contains 12,147 vols., and the lending library 29,170 vols. There is a boys' library associated with the former, and a large collection of juvenile literature in the latter, as well as 260 volumes of embossed books. The issues in the reference library for the year were 99,664 vols., or a daily average of 275 against 258 in 1887-8. From the lending library there were 145,770 vols. issued, being a daily average issue of 479. This is 2,959 more than in the previous year, but a falling off in the daily average of 25. The library rate realised £957.

Foreign and Colonial.

[Baltimore.] The Enoch Pratt Library of Baltimore City.

Third Annual Report of the Librarian, Mr. Lewis H. Steiner, to the Board of Trustees, January 1st, 1889. pp. 15.

This library consists of a Central Library and five branches, with a total stock of 69,450 vols. The total issues for the year were 430,217 vols., of which number 271,461 were from the Central Library. This is an increase on the issues of the previous year of 22,678 vols. The percentage of fiction varies from 71 per cent. at the Central Library to 87 at No. 1 Branch. There were 31 vols. missing at stock-taking. The names of 5,500 persons were added to the "registration list," which now stands at 37,196. The Central Library was furnished with 171 different reviews, in the English, German, and French languages; and the branches with 33. Of these the number of issues was 111,874. The employees at the libraries number 47, of whom 35 are females. The expenditure, which included 18,394 dollars for the "construction" of No. 5 Branch, exceeded 62,000 dollars.

Cornell University Library Annual Report, 1887-88. pp. 5.

This deals largely with the work of cataloguing, and of the library staff. The estimated extent of the library is 98,547 vols., and 28,450

pamphlets. Accommodation for the White Historical Library of 30,000 vols., and 10,000 pamphlets is required. The Dictionary Catalogue now includes 40,167 vols. and pamphlets. During the year reported upon 4,109 books were "drawn" by officers of the University, and 24,169 by students, but this only represents about one-third of the actual use of the General Library. A course of twelve Bibliographical Lectures was delivered during the year.

Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. Sixth Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade, Denver, Colorado, for 1888. pp. 105, illustrated.

This report contains a short history of the Mercantile Library. Previous to 1884 no free public library existed in Denver, although several association libraries had been established, which after brief careers closed, generally, for want of support. In 1884 the directors of the Chamber of Commerce voted that quarters be set apart for a library and reading room in their new building. The whole of the third floor, 120 ft. by 48 ft., was devoted to that purpose. At present there are 15,000 vols. in the library; and to the 3,244 borrowers 58,322 vols. have been issued for home use, making an average of 190 per day. On week-days an average of 255 per day have been issued for reading in the library; on Sundays and holidays an average of 58. Estimated average attendance in the reading room on week-days 97 per day, on Sundays 91 per day. The librarian is Mr. C. R. Dudley, a graduate of the Yale Law School, of 1877, and who is highly complimented as having "fully justified the original conception of his qualifications."

Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, 1889.

THE Reception Committee have issued a Report in which the Treasurers, Messrs. Tedder and Welch, give an account of their stewardship.

Altogether £257 17s. was received towards the expenses of the Meeting, and £248 4s. 3d. was disbursed. The balance, £9 12s. 9d., has been handed to the Treasurer of the Association "in the hope that the sum may form the nucleus of a Benevolent Fund." In the last number of the *Library* the record of the proceedings crowded out everything else, and any adequate reference to the efforts of the officials and members of the Reception Committee was impossible. Those who know the difficulty of gaining support in London for any enterprise that is not political or of general interest, will not charge us with exaggeration when we say that what was achieved by Mr. Maunde Thompson and his colleagues on the Reception Committee was nothing less than a splendid success. Of course this was mainly due to the enthusiasm and energy of the executive officials, Messrs. Tedder and Welch (Hon. Treasurers), and Messrs. J. B. Bailey and D. W. Douthwaite (Hon. Secretaries.)

Mr. Tedder's genius for getting subscriptions bodes well for the financial future of the Association, and the cordial recognition accorded to the Meeting by the City we need scarcely say was almost entirely due to Mr. Welch's efforts. The burden of the work necessarily fell upon the Hon. Secretaries, and how well it was done was amply vouched for by the general satisfaction all the arrangements gave.

The thanks of the Association are especially due to Mr. R. W

Douthwaite, without whose hearty co-operation in the arrangements for the comforts of members, and for the meetings at Gray's Inn, the labours of others would have little availed.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Library*.

DEAR SIR,—I crave a small space in your valuable magazine to enable me to express to those "Colleagues and Friends" who were not present at our monthly meeting last Monday, the 11th instant, my profound sense of their kindness and good feeling in presenting me with a splendid gold watch and chain as "a mark of their esteem and regard" on my retirement from the office of Treasurer of the Library Association.

With many thanks to you for your personal courtesy and kindness,

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

ROBERT HARRISON,

Ex-Treasurer of the Library Association.

Library Association Record.

THE last Monthly Meeting was held in the Library of Gray's Inn on Monday, November 11th, at 8 o'clock. The gathering was a social one, and the sole business of the evening was to do honour to Mr. Robert Harrison, one of the founders of the Association and its Treasurer from the first until January last, when failing health (now happily restored) compelled him to resign that office. As soon as Mr. Harrison's retirement was announced a desire was expressed by many of the members that some tangible token of the warm regard felt for him by the Association at large should be given to him, and a subscription list was opened for that purpose. The Treasurer and the Hon. Secretaries undertook to receive contributions, and Mr. Mac Alister agreed to act as Hon. Secretary for the fund. The result has been most gratifying—as not only substantial contributions but numerous cordial letters expressing the high esteem in which Mr. Harrison is held have been received.

Mr. Tedder, who occupied the chair in consequence of the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. Maunde Thompson, briefly explained the object of the meeting, and in very cordial terms expressed to Mr. Harrison the kindly feelings which he had evoked among the members of the Association. Mr. Tedder then, on behalf of the subscribers, asked Mr. Harrison to accept from them a very handsome gold watch and chain. The front of the watch bore Mr. Harrison's monogram, and on the back an appropriate inscription was beautifully engraved.

Mr. Harrison replied with much feeling, and referring to some of the incidents connected with the founding of the Association, expressed the pleasure it had given him to be connected with it and to work for it. He earnestly hoped that his health would permit him to continue to be useful in some way to the Association, in which he would always take the most affectionate interest. [Above we print a letter from Mr. Harrison.]

The next MEETING will be held at 20, Hanover Square, on MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th, at 8 p.m. Paper:—"Suggestions for a Scientific Book classification," by Mr. J. S. Stuart Glennie.

The Council will meet at 7 p.m.

